WINGS COMICS

# 艶漢

アデカン

4

# 艶漢 アデカン④ 尚月地

Tsukiji NAO presents

尚月地

Tsukiji NAO

新書館

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新書館◆定価：本体590円＋税

Shiro, an umbrella craftsman with incredibly smexy hips, doesn't seem to understand what's so wrong about wearing no fundoshi (aka "no-fun") so he is always slovenly dressed and lets the wind caress his skin. Kojiro, a police officer with unrivaled passion of skinship, is a hot-blooded man with a strong sense of justice. Together, they solve underground cases found beneath towns and ruins in Old Japan. Volume 4 consists of two stories ("The Young Man's Trap" and "The Two Benika"), plus a super cute extra chapter where Shiro's body shrank the moment he wore a cursed fundoshi!!

WAAAAH

C-CALM DOWN, LITTLE MISS!!

I DIDN'T GET THE CHANCE TO APPEAR IN THIS VOLUME AS WEEEELL!!!

Muscle-maniac Maiden
Haruhi Komaki

ME TOO!!

ME TOO!!

I, ON THE OTHER HAND, HAVE ALWAYS BEEN WAITING FOR A STORY WITH ME AS THE MC!

YOU'LL APPEAR IN THE NEXT VOLUME! ISN'T THAT GOOD ENOUGH!?

SIGH

ME TOO... I WAS SUPPOSED TO APPEAR IN THIS VOLUME AND YET ...

Senior Police Officer
Hari-kyu

The Lady from Tetsuwa

One-length-haircut Officer
Sakibana Reishi

Master of Perverts
Saotome Mizuhiko

...I'm sorry, really...

# 4

# 尚月地

# 海の方

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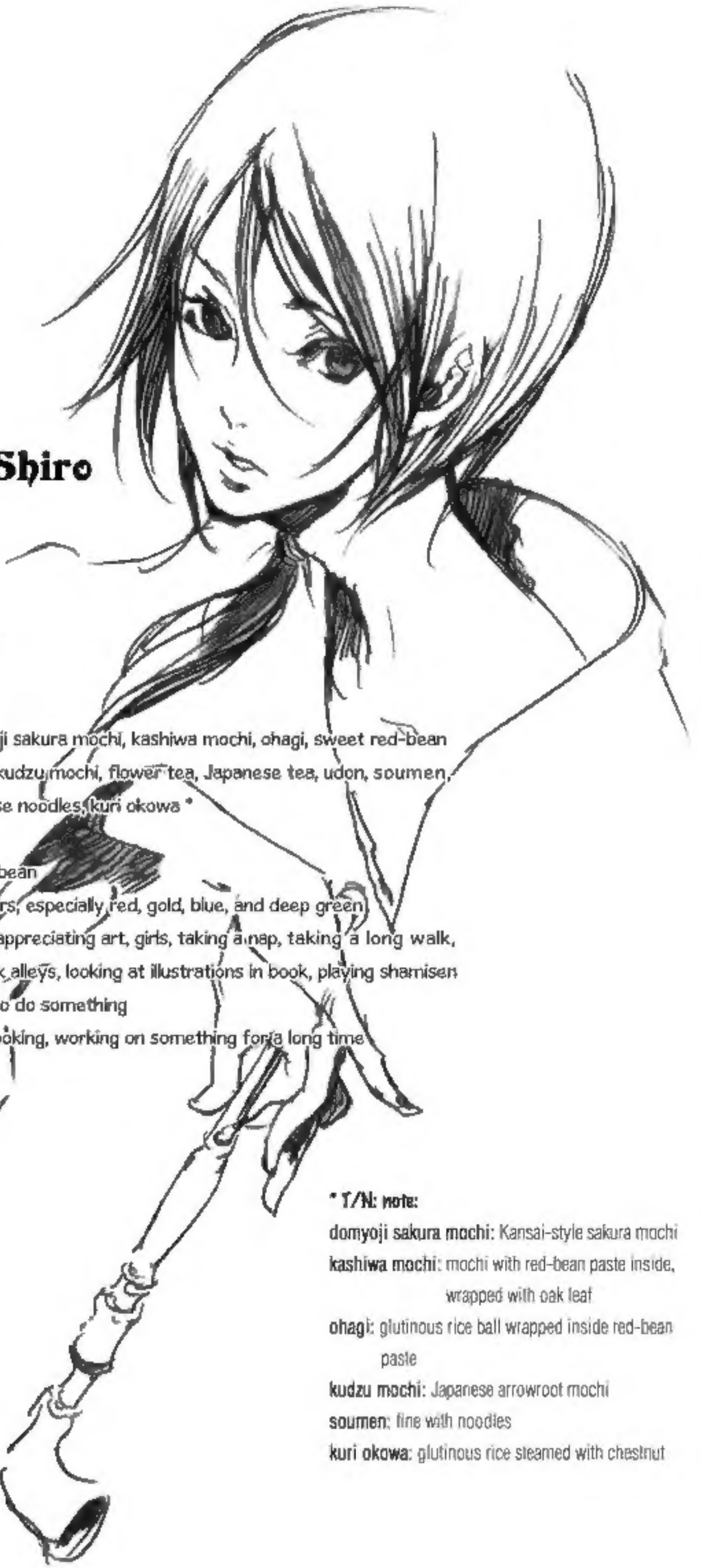
Character file 001



# Yoshiwara Shiro

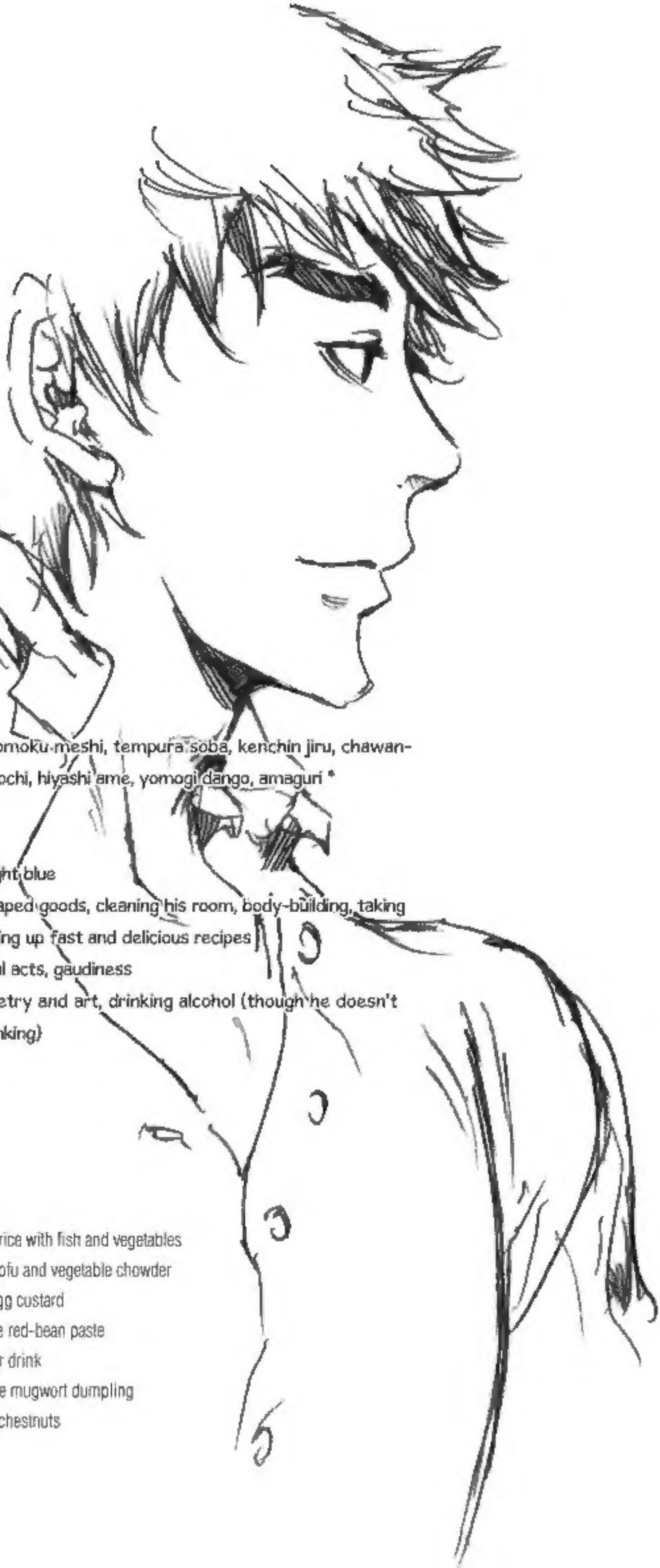
Height: 177cm
Weight: 58kg
Age: 16
Birthday: December 12
Zodiac: Capricorn
Bloodtype: A
Favorite foods: domyoji sakura mochi, kashiwa mochi, ohagi, sweet red-bean soup, kudzu mochi, flower tea, Japanese tea, udon, soumen, Chinese noodles, kuri okowa *

Food dislike(s): kidney bean
Favorite colors: All colors, especially red, gold, blue, and deep green
Hobbies: making crafts, appreciating art, girls, taking a nap, taking a long walk, hunting for back alleys, looking at illustrations in book, playing shamisen
Dislike(s): being forced to do something
Not really good at: cooking, working on something for a long time

*** T/N: note:**

**domyoji sakura mochi:** Kansai-style sakura mochi
**kashiwa mochi:** mochi with red-bean paste inside, wrapped with oak leaf
**ohagi:** glutinous rice ball wrapped inside red-bean paste
**kudzu mochi:** Japanese arrowroot mochi
**soumen:** fine with noodles
**kuri okowa:** glutinous rice steamed with chestnut

Character file 002



# Yamada Kojiro

Height: 185cm
Weight: 76kg
Age: 17
Birthday: April 12
Zodiac: Aries
Bloodtype: O
Favorite foods: white rice, gomoku-meshi, tempura soba, kenchin jiru, chawan-mushi, botamochi, hiyashi ame, yomogi dango, amaguri *

Food dislike(s): milk
Favorite colors: blue, white, light blue
Hobbies: cats, collecting cat-shaped goods, cleaning his room, body-building, taking part in festivals, thinking up fast and delicious recipes
Dislike(s): slovenly acts, immoral acts, gaudiness
Not really good at: song/poetry and art, drinking alcohol (though he doesn't hate drinking)

*** T/N: note:**
**gomoku meshi:** dish of rice with fish and vegetables
**kenchin jiru:** Japanese tofu and vegetable chowder
**chawanmushi:** savory egg custard
**botamochi:** mochi inside red-bean paste
**hiyashi ame:** cold ginger drink
**yomogi dango:** Japanese mugwort dumpling
**amaguri:** broiled sweet chestnuts

KYAA
KYAA
FUJI-CHIYO!!
LOOK HERE!!
The Thirteenth Story
STOMP
YOU ALL LOOK LIKE YOU'RE HAVING FUN, LADIES.
NO WAY!
HUH?!
A...
ANRI!!?

# The Thirteenth Story:

# THE YOUNG MAN'S TRAP

## Part 1

WHAT? SO YOU'RE THE MAIN STAR TODAY?

A... ANRI-SAMA...

YOU'RE DOING IT WRONG.

THOUGH STRIPPERS ARE SUPPOSED TO HIDE THEIR PRIVATE PARTS,

SNAP

.....
!!!
SOME-TIMES YOU GOTTA DO IT...
TOSS

BOLDLY.
SOUL EATER
Voluntary Restraint

RIDICULOUS!! ANRI'S "RED VEIL" IS RUNNING LOW! HE CAN COLLAPSE ANYTIME!!

YEAH. HE WENT TO THE HANGOUT SPOT FOR THE ELITES' LOW CLASS FEMALE SERVANTS.

WHAT!?

ANRI IS...

IN THE STRIP HUT?!

Silent...

Y'KNOW IT'S THAT PERVERT'S HOBBY TO ENTERTAIN WOME-

SHIT!!

DASH

Dang...

Sigh...

SLIDE

Spies from the northern troupe are already here..

GLANCE

!

mutter

mutter

ANRI!!

THE HELL... WHAT'S THE HURRY FOR?

Voluntary Restraint

SMIRK
DASH
THIS
IDIOT!!
WHOA!
GRAB
HEY! DON'T GET IN THE WAY!
YEAH! IT'S RARE FOR ANRI TO DO THIS-
STOMP
Shut
AH!
HE'S SO CRUEL!

OW!!

THUD

WHAT WERE YOU THINKING?!

I TOLD YOU TO KEEP A LOW PROFILE, DIDN'T I?!

I SAW SPIES FROM THE NORTHERN TROUPE PROWLING AROUND THE STRIP MUT

BECAUSE YOU RETURNED EARLIER THAN SCHEDULED, THOSE NORTHERN BASTARDS ARE ASSUMING THAT YOU'VE RUN OUT OF YOUR RED VEIL

"RED VEIL" S A TYPE OF OPIUM WE MUST CONSUME IN ORDER TO STAY ALIVE.

WITHOUT IT, WE CAN'T EVEN STAND UP

YOU'RE ABLE TO MOVE NOW DUE TO SHEER WILLPOWER. NOBODY CAN GUESS WHEN YOU'LL COLLAPSE.

NO. IT'S DIFFI-CULT TO GET ONE

SO? DID YOU MANAGE TO GET SOME RED VEIL FOR ME?

TO ATTACK YOU AT ONCE!

IF THE NORTH-ERN GUYS FIND OUT ABOUT YOUR DEPLETING RED VEIL, THEY'LL TAKE THE CHANCE

Southern Troupe
Red Veil Distribution Unit

IF YOUR RED VEIL IS SCHEDULED TO RUN OUT TOMORROW, GET IN THE LINE!

WE'RE DISTRI-BUTING NOW ..!!

FOR NOW .. WHY DON'T WE TRY VISITING THE RED VEIL DISTRIBUTION UNIT?

tap

HERE YOU GO.

503... YEAH, YOUR RED VEIL IS INDEED DUE TOMORROW.

Flutter

NUMBER 503!!

PULL

SHOW ME YOUR NUMBER.

WE WON'T FORGIVE YOU IF YOU LOSE IT, SO BE SURE TO DRINK IT UP RIGHT HERE.

ONE RED VEIL FLOWER PROLONGS YOUR LIFE FOR 3 DAYS. THIS BOTTLE HERE IS FOR 60 DAYS.

I'LL GIVE THE REST TO MY SWORN BROTHER AND HAVE HIM DRINK A FLOWER EVERY 3 DAYS!!

JUGGLE

TURN

GULP

HEY! I TOLD YOU TO DRINK TILL THE LAST DROP!!

HMM...

AS PROOF OF LOYALTY TOWARDS MY SWORN BROTHER!!

I'M TAKING THIS RED VEIL WHICH IS AS PRECIOUS AS LIFE

STAND

OKAY, LET'S KILL THAT GUY AND STEAL HIS RED VEIL!!

ONLY SWORN BROTHERS WHO ARE PASSIONATE ABOUT EACH OTHER WOULD DO IT

IS WHAT HE DID SOME KIND OF TREND AMONG SWORN BROTHERS LATELY?

OH, LET'S NOT! HE'S SUCH A CUTIE!

giggle

giggle

SWORN BROTHERS ARE SUPPOSED TO HELP ONE ANOTHER. NO WONDER THEY TEND TO ONLY RELY ON EACH OTHER.

Yr Che!

'A CUTIE' HUH... WELL, "SELF-DEFENSE IS JUSTIFIABLE" AND "RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN SWORN BROTHERS" ARE INDEED THE ONLY SOLID LAWS HERE.

YEAH. FOR MY RED VEIL TO DEPLETE EARLY DUE TO MY LACK OF PHYSICAL STRENGTH I MUST BE GETTING OLD

BUT YOU CAN'T EVEN LAST FOR ANOTHER 2 DAYS RIGHT?

STILL, WHAT SHOULD WE DO? YOUR RED VEIL WAS ORIGINALLY SCHEDULED TO RUN OUT IN THREE MORE DAYS

IF WE MAKE A REQUEST FOR RED VEIL AT THE DISTRIBUTION UNIT
WE'LL BE ABLE TO GET SOME IN A FEW HOURS, HOWEVER
I'M SURE THE NORTHERN TROUPE'S SPIES ARE ALREADY HIDING AMONG THOSE PEOPLE AROUND THE UNIT
ONCE YOU GO THERE TO MAKE A REQUEST, THE NEWS WILL SPREAD LIKE WILDFIRE.
BEFORE YOU CAN EVEN GET YOUR HANDS ON THE RED VEIL,
YOU'LL BE CAPTURED BY THE NORTHERN TROUPE'S ARMY
COUGH
COUGH
!!
ANRI ...!!
WE HAVE NO CHOICE! I'LL GATHER OUR UNDERLINGS SO THEY CAN PROTECT YOU!
STAND
LET'S SUBMIT A REQUEST FOR SOME RED VEIL!!

...DO YOU SERIOUSLY THINK THEY CAN FIGHT AGAINST THE NORTHERN TROUPE!?

PU

LL

NO MATTER HOW MANY UNDERLINGS COME TO PROTECT ME...

HEY!!

BELIEVE IN ME, ANRI!!

AT LEAST I WILL PROTECT YOU EVEN IF IT'S THE LAST THING I DO!!

DO YOU WANT TO SLEEP WITH ME?

SHINZO, WHY ARE YOU SO BENT ON SACRIFICING YOUR LIFE FOR ME?

: : : : !!

WELL YES I AM!! BUT WHAT'S WITH THE "SHIT IS BETTER THAN SEX WITH ANRI"?! AND WHY DID I HAVE TO LISTEN TO YOU CALLING ME "PHYSIOLOGICALLY IMPOSSIBLE" HUH?!

WHY'D YOU HIT ME? YOU ALWAYS CALL ME DISGUSTING AREN'T YOU RELIEVED NOW?

Why would I beg you?! Asshole!

?

?

BUT IF YOU SERIOUSLY WANT IT AND ORDER ME OR ***BEG*** ME FOR IT, I THINK I CAN FORCE MYSELF TO DO THE IMPOSSIBLE AND SLEEP WIT—

ANRI. YOU'RE IMPORTANT TO ME BUT PHYSIOLOGICALLY, IT'S ***ABSOLUTELY*** NOTHING LIKE YOU THINK IT IS. I'D RATHER EAT SHIT THAN BE INVOLVED IN ANY OF THAT

YOUR PROTECTIVENESS IS CREEPING ME OUT Y'KNOW

IS BECAUSE YOU'RE IN LOVE WITH ME.

IT WOULD'VE BEEN EASIER TO UNDERSTAND IF YOU'D SAID THAT THE REASON YOU ACT LIKE THIS

EVEN I DON'T KNOW THE NAME OF THIS FEELING

I JUST WANT TO PROTECT YOU
IF YOU WISH FOR NOTHING BUT A SWORD TO HOLD IN THOSE HANDS
I'LL BE THAT SWORD
THINK OF ME AS A TOOL

COMMAND ME,
ANRI.

AHAHA! YOU CAN THINK OF ME HOWEVER YOU LIKE.
THERE'S NO NEED TO ORDER THE UNDERLINGS TO PROTECT ME
INSTEAD, SEARCH FOR A "GENEROUS MAN" WHO PICKED UP A YOUNGER SWORN BROTHER FROM A LOWER RANK
I'M JUST USING YOU BECAUSE YOU'RE USEFUL
欧風店

AHAHA!

WE'LL DO THIS EXTRAVAGANTLY, SHINZO! WE CAN'T AFFORD TO BE CAUGHT BY THE LEADER OF THE NORTHERN TROUPE, AFTER ALL!

WILL HE BE OF ANY USE TO US?

...I'VE INDEED HEARD A RUMOR ABOUT THAT BENEVOLENT MAN BUT

Northern Troupe
Troupe Leader's Mansion

PLEASE GIVE US ANOTHER CHANCE!!

CREAK

PL-PLEASE FORGIVE US, TROUPE LEADER

CREAK

WE'RE BEGGING FOR YOUR MERCY, SIR!

A-AT LEAST, PLEASE SPARE THE LIVES OF OUR YOUNGER SWORN BROTHERS AND WOMEN!

EEEK

The Organization's Northern Troupe

Shipenome

Troupe Leader

I HAVE NO USE FOR LOSERS.

THROW

BE GONE

AH!!

POOF

AAAA

BANISHMENT

FAR OUT

BR- BROTHER, I THINK THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE EXECUTED LATELY ARE A BIT TOO MUCH

Northern Troupe Leader's Assistant
**Adachi Yousuke**
The Third Younger Sworn Brother

gulp

GRAB

DON'T YOU THINK IT'S A LITTLE HARS-

IT'S TRUE THAT THE PEOPLE OF THAT UNIT FAILED TO FULFILL THEIR MISSION ONCE, BUT THEY ARE ALL PROS.

CRUSH

WHETHER IT BE ONCE OR A THOUSAND TIMES.

I HAVE NO USE FOR PEOPLE WHO HAVE FAILED ...

AL THOUGH A TROUPE LEADER IS ALLOWED TO HAVE AS MANY SWORN BROTHERS AS HE WANTS, DON'T YOU THINK YOU'VE KILLED TOO MUCH?

HAHAHA. INCLUDING HIM, HOW MANY YOUNGER SWORN BROTHERS HAVE YOU KILLED, BROTHER?

YES SIR

KIL.. THIS MAN'S WOMEN, KIDS, AND UNDER-LINGS.

Northern Troupe Leader's Assistant

**Sakura Harazami**

The First Younger Sworn Brother

N-NO. I'LL PASS.

DO YOU ALSO WANT TO DIE?

IT SEEMS LIKE AFTER HE RETURNED TO THE ORGANIZATION, HE WENT TO HAVE FUN WITH THE LADIES IN A STRIP HUT.

PUTTING THAT ASIDE BROTHER, ACCORDING TO OUR SPIES WHO'VE BEEN TAILING ANRI FROM THE SOUTHERN TROUPE...

DISPATCH OUR ARMY AND CATCH THAT GUY NOW

THE REASON HE'S LOOKING FOR ATTENTION IS EXACTLY BECAUSE HE'S RUNNING OUT OF RED VEIL.

DON'T PUT HIM ON THE SAME LEVEL AS NORMAL PEOPLE.

WHAT?

BECAUSE IF HE IS, HE SHOULDN'T BE ABLE TO MOVE AT ALL.

I GUESS HE'S NOT HOME FOR SOME RED VEIL THEN.

THE TROUPE LEADERS OF THE SOUTH, WEST AND EAST ARE ALL SPINELESS COWARDS. THEY WON'T DEFY A WORD I SAY.

BUT, IS IT ALRIGHT FOR US TO SELFISHLY SEND AN ARMY TO THE SOUTHERN TROUPE?

WE'LL KILL HIM AFTER HE TELLS US OF SHIRO'S WHERE-ABOUTS.

BY THE WAY, YOU WANT US TO "CATCH" HIM, NOT "KILL" HIM?

He's acting like a tyrant... Just because our army is the strongest

WHAT? DOES ANRI KNOW WHERE SHIRO IS?

HE UNDERSTANDS SHIRO EXTREMELY WELL. I'M SURE HE HAS ALREADY FOUND HIM.

BUT JUST BECAUSE WE KNOW WHERE SHIRO IS,

DO YOU THINK WE'LL BE ABLE TO CATCH HIM EASILY?

HE ONCE

SUCCESSFULLY ESCAPED FROM YOU, BROTHER.

MIIIIIN— MIIIIIN

AHHH—— I THINK I'M ABOUT TO BREAK.

I'LL BREAK HIM.

WITH THESE HANDS.

I'LL CAPTURE SHIRO—NO MATTER WHAT. AND THEN..

YOUR HANDS CAUGHT NOTHING BUT HIS HAIR, BROTHER.

DIP

IT'S SO HOT.

OFFICER

SURE IS...

AND HERE I THOUGHT IT'D BE COOLER IF WE GOT INSIDE THE TUB

YOUR CHEEKS ARE HOT, TOO..

siiiiigh

OFFICER. YOUR CHEST IS HOT~~~~

YEAH. BUT, WE BOTH CAN'T STAND THE HEAT SO

IT'S PROBABLY BECAUSE THE TWO OF US GOT INTO THE TUB TOGETHER

!?

KO-CHAN! YOU THERE?!

SLIDE

I'M IPPEI!

WOW! KO-CHAN! BEEN A LONG TIME!!

!!

HUH.

I-IPPEI!?
KO-CHAN!! I'VE WANTED TO SEE YOUUU!!
WHOA!
GLOMP
SPLASH
KO-CHAN YOU HAVEN'T CHANGED AT ALL!! GOOD-LOOKING AS ALWAYS!
IPPEI... YOU'VE GAINED A LOT OF WEIGHT...
Ippei from the old days
His nick-name at the time was "Burdock root"
I SURE HAVE! I'VE ALWAYS WANTED TO BE LIKE YOU, KO-CHAN! HERE'S THE RESULT OF MY BODY-BUILDING!
Look at this!
WOW~!!

HEY, TWO SUPER MACHO GUYS OVER THERE!! THE TWO OF YOU LOOK LIKE YOU CAN BE IN THE GRAVURE SECTION OF BARAZOKU MAGAZINE* !!
Geh..
ST-STOP LOOKING AT US LIKE THAT!!
YOU THINK SO?
BUT AS I THOUGHT, I COULDN'T WIN AGAINST YOU, KO-CHAN!. AS EXPECTED OF YOU!

*T/L note: Barazoku = a Japanese magazine for gays

I'LL GLADLY STEP INTO THAT WORLD AFTER STEPPING ON YOUR NOSE!! WITH ALL MY MIGHT!!
GLINT
IF YOU DON'T STEP INTO THE ADULT WORLD WITH ALL YOUR MIGHT, I DOUBT YOUR GRAVURE DEBUT WILL EVER BE A SUCCESS!!
HOWEVER! OFFICER, YOU'RE STILL TOO PLAIN FOR GRAVURE!!

LEAN
THAT'S RIGHT WHEN WE WERE CHILDREN, THE THREE OF US PLAYED TOGETHER A LOT BUT
MY NAME IS OTACHI IPPE !! I'M SABUROUTA'S COUSIN AND KO-CHAN'S FRIEND!
I SEE! SO YOU'RE KO-CHAN'S FRIEND!
THEN THAT MAKES YOU MY FRIEND, TOO!!
YEAH! THAT'S BECAUSE I REAAAALLY WANT TO SEE KO-CHAN!
WHEN IPPEI WAS 10, HE MOVED OUT. I'M SURPRISED THAT YOU'RE BACK.
SO, WHAT KIND OF JOB ARE YOU DOING NOW?
IPPE IS GOOD-NATURED BUT HE CAN BE CARELESS AT TIMES.
Ahahaha
UP and UP and
KO-CHAN IS AWFULLY STRONG BUT HE WAS SO GENTLE WITH A WEAK KID LIKE ME

I MET "JOB-SEARCH-AGENT-SAN" BY CHANCE ON THE ROAD AND HE INVITED ME TO DO VARIOUS KINDS OF JOBS.
I'M STILL LOOKING FOR A JOB THAT SUITS ME
THEN WHY NOT JOIN ME IN THE POLICE FORCE?
I DON'T WANT TO IMITATE YOU FOR EVERY SINGLE THING. KO-CHAN!!
LIKE, SECRETLY CARRYING WEEDS WHICH SMOKE CAN MAKE PEOPLE FLY IF THEY INHALE IT
Tee-he Laiala
...!?
OR, STANDING HALF-NAKED WHILE HOLDING A SIGN-BOARD WITH PRICE PER VISIT WRITTEN ON IT IN THE BACK ALLEY TO INVITE CUSTOMERS...
Wanna come?
!!?
I KE, I'M ALWAYS BOUGHT BY GRANNIES? IT'S TOUGH BUT.
IT'S MY JOB SO I MUST BE PROUD OF IT
This guy... He's proud of being tricked!!

SLIDE

OTACHI-
KUUUUUN!!

YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE PROUD OF YOUR JOBS! THEY ARE ALL DANGEROUS!! QUIT RIGHT NO--

OH! JOB-SEARCH-AGENT-SAN!!

T-THAT GUY IS FROM A JOB SEARCH AGENCY!? YOU...!! NO MATTER HOW YOU LOOK AT HIM, HE'S A YAKUZA!!

MENACING

YOU WERE HERE THE WHOLE TIME? IT'S ABOUT TIME FOR THE NEXT JOOO-OOOB!

!!?

OH.

WIG

DROP

SLIDE

MY NAME IS HITOYOSHI, NICE TO MEET YOULU.

BOW

OH, ARE YOU OTACHI-KUN'S FRIIIIEND?

!!?

Tattoos!?

MY HOMICIDE RECORD

You Wanna Fight? Bring it on!

NO, THOSE CHARACTER-LIKE SHAPES ON MY HEAD ARE CAUSED BY INTERNAL BLEEDINGS --

LET ALONE YOUR HEAD, YOUR ENTIRE LIFE IS ABOUT BLEEDING!!

I NEED THIS WIG TO COVER MY PREMATURE BALDNEEEESS.

NO! YOU'RE NOT "COVERING", YOU'RE TRYING TO "HIDE" YOUR RECORDS ALTOGETHER!!

. . . . !!

OH. EXCUSE MEEEE! I SHOULD'VE PUT ON THE WIG PROPEEEERLY.

PLOP

STROKE

I WANT TO BE ABLE TO STAND ON MY OWN FEET!

KO-CHAN! I WANT YOU TO LEAVE THIS WHOLE WORKING MATTER TO ME! I'LL BE FINE!

HEY!!

WA... WAIT!! WHAT ARE YOU PLANNING TO DO TO IPPEI!?

Yessir

SHALL WE GET GOING, OTACHI-KUN? TODAY'S JOB IS TOUGH!!

OTHER-WISE, EVEN IPPE WOULD BE ARRESTED ALONG WITH HIM..

NAH IF WE WANT TO CATCH HIM RED-HANDED WE MUST NOT BE HASTY...

WELL THEN, FRIEND. OTACHI-KUN HAS DECIDED THIS BY HIMSELF

WHY DON'T YOU JUST ARREST A MAN LIKE HIM?

UGH ...

shut

HEY! ANRI!

WOW! THANK YOU!!

NOW, COME WITH ME.

THE TRUTH IS, WE'VE DECIDED TO HOLD A BANQUET TO CELEB-RATE YOUR HOME-COMING.

COME HERE.

TROUPE LEADER!

I DON'T HAVE ANY GRAND-PARENTS, SO I'VE WANTED TO TRY DOING THIS ONCE.

HA HA HA.

AHAH AHA! NO WORRIES! IT CAN'T HURT TO WEAR IT ANYWAY!

RO ROMANCE?? I'M A..READY THIS OLD!

OH! I BOUGHT A SOUVENIR FOR YOU, TOO, TROUPE LEADER! IT'S A CHARM FOR SUCCESSFUL ROMANCE!

WELL YEAH---- MY CAREER HAS ADVANCED BY QUITE A LOT

I SEE. IT'S ALRIGHT THEN I WAS JUST WORRIED ESPECIALLY SINCE YOU'RE AN IMPORTANT MAN TO US, THE SOUTHERN TROUPE.

IMPO-SSIBLE!

whisper

BY THE WAY, THE REASON WHY YOU RETURNED EARLY IS IT BECAUSE YOU'VE RUN OUT OF RED VEIL?

AND IT'S BECAUSE I WAS YOUR FAVORITE, TROUPE LEADER

Ooh, look at you Anri. Very beautiful.

YOU RESEMBLE A WESTERN GIRL THAT I MET A LONG TIME AGO.

YOU GENUINELY LOOK LIKE A GIRL IN THAT DRESS.

I ONLY MET HER ONCE...

BUT SHE WAS REALLY BEAUTIFUL.

I'LL LET YOUR CAREER ADVANCE

I'LL EVEN GRANT THAT UNSIGHTLY SWORN BROTHER OF YOURS

IF YOU AGREE TO LIVE AS MY DOLL LIKE THIS.

ANRI, YOU'RE A WEAKLING AND A "DEAD DOG" BUT

WE SHOULD HURRY TO THE BANQUET!

D-DON'T HOLD A GRUDGE AGAINST ME OVER SOMETHING FROM THE PAST, ANRI!!

WON'T YOU PLAY WITH ME AGAIN?

.....!!

SAY ... a normal life.

WE'LL SHOOT ANRI ONCE HE WALKS OUT OF THE ROOM AFTER THE BANQUET IS OVER.

ANRI AND THE TROUPE LEADER ARE HEADING TOWARDS THE BANQUET HALL.

YEAH KILLING A TROUPE LEADER IS A SERIOUS CRIME HERE

IF WE INJURE THE TROUPE LEADER, THINGS WILL GET TROUBLE-SOME.

UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES OUR AIM IS ANRI ALONE

WON'T BE ABLE TO RUN ANYWHERE AFTER WE THE NORTHERN TROUPE, CAPTURE YOU.

SOMEONE LIKE YOU WHO HAS RUN OUT OF HIS RED VEIL

WILL BE YOUR LAST SAKE, ANRI.

THE SAKE YOU'LL DRINK TODAY

I'M HONORED TO HAVE A FINE BANQUET ATTENDED BY MANY HIGHER-UPS LIKE THIS!

WOW! THANKS EVERYONE!!

rub-a-dub

DRINK UP, ANRI!!

I'm starting to get dizzy...

DIZZY

Oops. Not good ...

BUT, DON'T FRET.

WHAT!? ARE YOU SERIOUS!?

OH YEAH, ANRI. IT SEEMS LIKE RIGHT NOW, A FLOCK OF NORTHERN TROUPE SOLDIERS ARE WAITING TO KILL YOU OUTSIDE THIS BANQUET HALL.

BANG

BECAUSE YOU WILL DIE HERE.

BURST

!!!

GETTING SHOT BY MY BULLET LIKE THAT

IF IT WERE THE NORMAL YOU, THAT WOULDN'T HAVE HAPPENED SO IT'S TRUE THAT YOU'RE RUNNING OUT OF RED VEIL.

ANRI.

WE'VE ALL BEEN WAITING FOR THIS CHANCE,

THUD

WOBBLE

YOU ARE A THREAT TO US WHO CONTROL THE TROUPE.

AND TO TOP IT OFF, THERE IS YOUR REBELLIOUS SPIRIT

YOU'VE BECOME WAY TOO STRONG AND POPULAR FOR THE SOUTHERN TROUPE TO HANDLE

!!

I'M SURE YOU ALREADY FOUND HIM, RIGHT?

CLINK

HOWEVER, BEFORE YOU DIE, TELL US OF SHIRO'S WHERE-ABOUTS.

NOW SPILL IT.

IF YOU TELL US, I'LL MAKE YOUR DEATH PAINLESS.

Quality Checker AimeAie

WELL...IPPEI WILL HAVE TO RESOLVE THE INCIDENT THIS TIME BY HIMSELF.

I want you to leave this whole working matter to me!

....

WHAT SHOULD WE DO ABOUT OTACHI-DONO?

... THIS IS BAD.

AH...

HE NEEDS TO LEARN ABOUT THE DANGERS OF SOCIETY.

The Thirteenth Story:

# THE YOUNG MAN'S TRAP

Part 2

MORE TIGHT

TIGHTER

PANT

HUH?

CARRY THIS...?

THAT'S RIGHT-- CARRY IT TO THE LOCATION MARKED ON THE MAP!

YOU DIDN'T KNOW? RECENTLY ALL DOGS HAVE VERY NIMBLE TONGUES.

BUT ISN'T IT TALKING?

NO, NO. IT'S A LARGE DOG~

BUT... ISN'T THIS A HUMAN?

NO, IT HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH THE TONGUE...

gene

gehehene

YIKES!!

CLICK

LISTEN HERE, START CARRYING NOW OR I'LL KILL YOU!

Ippei, if you don't want to do it, then say it!

What...what should I do? In the past, Ko-chan--

...That's what he said, yet...

THAT, UMM...

THIS IS AN ORDER FROM OUR BOSS. IF YOU SAY NO, I'LL KILL YOU.

I've gotten into a bad situation again...

HIT

I-I'LL DO IT!!

WILL YOU OR WON'T YOU DO IT!?

I knew it. I can't!!!

Although I've trained my body, I still can't be as courageous as Ko-chan!!

GOOD; HERE IS A MAP OF THE PLACE.

If I don't do as I'm told, I'll be killed too...

MMPPHH

MMPPHH

But...that can't be helped...

This person might get murdered...

I-I COULDN'T SAY NO...

NO...I DIDN'T WANT TO DO IT. BUT EVERYONE SAID THAT THEY WANTED TO SEE IF A DRAGONFLY CAN STILL FLY WITHOUT IT'S WINGS...

AND THEN?

Is there honestly no other way?! Ippei, is this really what you want to do?!

There's no way...

AND SAID THAT YOU'RE SCARED.

.. AND THEN? YOU RAN OVER TO MY PLACE

?

THEN...AFTER CATCHING THE DRAGONFLY, EVERYONE SAID "IPPEI, YOU DO IT."

IT WAS MY FIRST TIME...

THAT KIND OF THING

I...

BE-CAUSE

piiipiii

FIGHT BACK, IPPEI!!

DON'T JUST FOLLOW ORDERS!!

IF THERE IS A FIRST TIME, THEN THERE WILL ALSO BE A NEXT TIME, AND IT WILL BE EVEN MORE AWFUL!!

I AM...

SO!

BUT...BUT I'M REALLY WEAK.

.....DON'T WANT TO...

mutter

AND GIVE UP ON YOURSELF, NO ONE WILL BE ABLE TO HELP YOU!!

IF EVEN YOU HATE YOURSELF,

HUH?

FLINCH

TO DO... THIS KIND OF WORK THAT I DON'T...LIKE.

TREMBLE TREMBLE

I.. THINK I ... DO... DON'T WANT...

STEP

WELL SAID, IPPEI!!

!!

HUHH?! I CAN'T HEAR YOU, BRAT!!

LOOKING FOR DEATH, ARE YOU!!

WHACK

GOOD!!

YOU YAKUZA PEOPLE,

HOW DARE YOU TRY TO TRICK IPPEI!! I WILL NEVER FORGIVE YOU!!

YOU.. YOU'RE THAT BASTARD FROM THAT TIME!!

KO-CHAN!!

CLENCH

SNAP

ARE YOU LOOKING FOR A BEATING?

PUNCH

TOSSED

GRIP

WHAT ARE YOU...

!
ROAR
HOW DARE YOU!!
GUNS, CONFISCATED!
GRAB
WAAAAA
SLIDE
GAAH
WHACK
GAH
PUNCH
AAAGGGHHHHH
WHOOSH
SLAM

MY FULL-TIME JOB IS A POLICE-MAN!!

LISTEN HERE. IF YOU COMMIT ANOTHER CRIME AGAIN I'LL ARREST ALL OF YOU!!

RAGE

I.....I UNDERSTAND!! WE WON'T PESTER HIM ANYMORE, JUST LEAVE US ALONE!!

slide

IF YOU'RE GOING TO APOLOGIZE, THEN FORGET IT!!

sob

KO... KO-CHAN, SORRY, I...

too strong

UN-UNDER-STOOD.

YOU'VE BECOME STRONGER, IPPEI!!

HOWEVER, WHAT YOU SAID JUST NOW WAS REALLY GREAT!!

...YES...

YOU'RE JUST TOO GULLIBLE! YOU NEED TO BE MORE KNOWLEDGEABLE ABOUT THESE KIND OF THINGS!!

upset

WE'RE HELPING YOU NOW!

AH, SPEAKING OF WHICH, THIS BAG!!

POSTE

UMM~

!

KO-CHAN!!

WHAT THE HELL IS THIS?!

UM, THAT'S OUR BOSS...

!!?

ta

da

FUFU~N ♡

HE ALSO WANTED IT TO BE IN A SUPER M WAY... WE WERE TOO EMBARRASSED TO DO IT OURSELVES, SO WE GOT THAT BRAT TO HELP US DO IT...

.....

OUR BOSS IS SUPER M, SO HE WANTED US TO TRANSPORT HIM TO THE NEARBY SM CLUB SECRETLY.

YEAH, THANK YOU, KO-CHAN!! I'LL COME AND MEET YOU NEXT TIME!

...THEN, I'LL SEE YOU SOON, IPPEI!

THIS IS TOO MESSED UP!!!

What is this!

Wahh!

I'm sorry!

AGGHHH

As expected, Ko-chan is the coolest man in the world.....!!

STEP STEP STEP

PASS

UGH

I'VE CAUGHT-YOU-

drag drag

HHH...

FALL

Place of exchange:

Southern Troupe Red light District

THE ONE WHO RECRUITS OHH YOUNGER PEOPLE AS A SWORN BROTHERS?

YOU MUST BE TALKING ABOUT YOTA-SAN.

IT'S RARE FOR SUCH A NICE GUY TO BE AROUND HERE.

AT THE FIELD NEXT TO WHERE THOSE OF THE LOWER CLASS LIVE.

YOU WILL FIND HIM GIVING RICE FOR THOSE OF THE LOWER CLASS,

This place still smells awful...

The slums of the lower class... I haven't visited this place since that one time when I was a kid.

sink

chatter chatter

EH? AH, VERY WELL.

ARE YOU SHIMOMURA YOTA? I NEED TO SPEAK TO YOU.

THANK YOU...!

NEXT, PLEASE!

YOU'RE FROM THE MIDDLE CLASS, AREN'T YOU? WHY DO YOU GIVE FOOD TO PEOPLE FROM THE LOWER CLASS?

WHAT DO YOU NEED ME FOR?

SHINZO-SAMA FROM THE UPPER CLASS...

FROM THE KITCHEN, I COULD SEE THE LIVES OF THOSE LIVING IN POVERTY; THEY LOOKED MISERABLE.

I'VE BEEN WORKING IN THE KITCHEN FOR THE UPPER CLASS.

I WAS ORIGINALLY A CHEF. AFTER BEING BROUGHT HERE,

IT'S A CHEF'S RESPONSIBILITY TO FEED THOSE WHO ARE HUNGRY.

AND FEED THEM DURING MY OFF DAYS.

THEREFORE, I DECIDED TO USE MY OWN SALARY TO BUY FOOD,

I SEE.

YES. AS SOMEONE FROM THE MIDDLE CLASS, IF I TAKE IN A SWORN BROTHER, HE WILL BE TREATED LIKE SOMEONE FROM THE MIDDLE CLASS.

grab

THEN? YOU STARTED TAKING IN SWORN BROTHERS FROM THE LOWER CLASS, RIGHT?

STARTLE

EH?

YOU'VE CAUGHT ANRI'S ATTENTION.

...HUH? WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

I'VE INVESTIGATED YOU. YOU'VE BEEN CHANGING SWORN BROTHERS QUITE FREQUENTLY.

I ONLY HAVE ONE THING TO SAY TO YOU:

HAND OVER THE RED VEIL.

WHA...

ISN'T IT BECAUSE YOU PURPOSELY CHOSE THOSE WHO WERE ALREADY DYING FROM ILLNESS?

I...I FEEL THAT THE SICK PEOPLE FROM LOWER CLASS ARE VERY PITIFUL. SO I CHOSE THEM AS MY SWORN BROTHERS... BUT IN THE END, THEY DIED REALLY FAST.

AND ALL OF THEM DIED FROM ILLNESS.

!!?

AND YOUR YOUNGER SWORN BROTHERS HAVE BEEN TRUSTING YOU WITH THEIR RED VEILS, CORRECT?

NOWADAYS, IT'S COMMON FOR SWORN BROTHERS TO HAVE DEEP BONDS.

IT'S EASY TO EARN A LOT BY SELLING IT ON THE BLACK MARKET.

IF YOUR SWORN BROTHER DIES, THE REMAINING OF THE 60 DAYS' WORTH OF HIS RED VEIL WILL BECOME YOURS.

THAT'S NOT IT

TH...THAT'S TOO MUCH!!

I DIDN'T. .

SHUN-SUKE!!

BROTHER IS A VERY GENTLE MAN.

The deaths of your sworn brothers are occurring more often.

Are you so impatient for them to die naturally that you poison them?

POISONING? THAT IS IMPOSSIBLE.

I'M ALSO SLOWLY RECOVERING...

BROTHER HAS BEEN TAKING CARE OF ME EVERYDAY.

Southern Troupe

**Banquet Hall**

.....

UGH...

ANRI,

HURRY UP AND SPIT OUT SHIRO'S WHERE-ABOUTS!!

AH, TROUPE LEADER IS SO TERRIBLE... WHY ARE YOU BEING SO MEAN TO ME...

pant

I'M THE TROUPE LEADER'S CUTE SUB-ORDINATE, NO?

WHO'S CUTE?! YOU'RE THE ONE ACTING AS AN OBEDIENT SERVANT BUT YOU'RE ACTUALLY USING ME AS A STEPPING STONE!

PLUS,

YOU'VE BEEN GROWING A HUMAN WEAPON LIKE SHIRO BEHIND MY BACK!!

EVEN AT THAT TIME, YOU WERE READY TO KILL ME ANYTIME, WEREN'T YOU!

LIES!

I...I WOULDN'T DO SUCH A THING.

WE'RE SCARED OF YOU, ANRI.

NOT ONLY ME, BUT EVERYONE OF US HERE...

AS A TOY ALL THIS TIME.

ACTUALLY, YOU'VE BEEN HATING ME FOR TREATING YOU

WE LIVED IN FEAR,

WONDERING WHEN YOU, WHO IN THE PAST WERE

WOULD START SEEKING REVENGE.

EVERYONE'S TOY,

IT'S TRUE.

.....I DON'T HATE ANYONE.....

GR AB

THAT'S ENOUGH, DIE!!

STOP TELLING LIES, YOU FREAKY BASTARD!!

WHAT?!

HAHAHAHA, FINALLY!! TRYING TO KILL ME WITHOUT A PROPER REASON!!

BAM!

DODGE

!!

AND RETALIATE IN "SELF-DEFENCE"

RIGHT?

NOW I...

CAN FOLLOW THE LAWS FROM THIS PLACE,

SNAP

CRACK

Splash

.....!!?

I ASKED MUTSUKUCHI TO GIVE ME SOME RED VEIL JUICE.

get up

WHEN I KNEW MY RED VEIL WAS DE-PLETED,

JUST NOW, YOU...

drip

drip

!?

WHY DIDN'T YOU DRINK IT EARLIER?

IF YOU HAD TH S KIND OF THING,

IT SHOULD STILL BE ABLE TO LAST FOR AWHILE.

ALTHOUGH IT SN'T AS EFFECTIVE AS THE FRESH ONES,

hahaha

HAHA-HAHA

CLICK

BECAUSE IF YOU GUYS DIDN'T TRY TO KILL ME, I COULDN'T CALL IT A JUSTIFI-ABLE SELF-DEFENCE.

screech

BANG BANG BANG BANG

RUN!!!

A TRAP!! WE'VE BEEN TRICKED!!

WAAHHH

SWISH

DIE BRAT!!

HE ONLY DRANK A LITTLE BIT OF RED VEIL JUICE, IT'S NOT GONNA MAKE MUCH DIFF-ERENCE!!

CLICK

DAMMIT, WHO'S GONNA RUN AWAY!!

WHOOSH

!?

GRAB

SFX: BAM

VROOSH

AGGHHH

PIERCE

PIERCE

BANG

BANG

BANG

IDIOT!! GET AWAY QUICKLY. ANRI IS A MONSTER!!

BANG BANG

THAT BRAT!!

LEAP

AHHHH

GLINT

UGGHHH

UGH

PIERCE

lands

SFX: SLIDE

SFX: SLIDE

SFX: FWOOSH

BANG BANG BANG

halt

SHOT SHOT SHOT WAAHHHH SHOT

BYE-BYE, TROUPE LEADER!

GRAB

!!

!!.....

GAP

GAH

SLAM

WHEN... WAS IT THAT YOU STARTED TO HATCH THE IDEA FOR THIS TRAP?

OR WAS IT...

WHEN YOU BECAME STRONGER?

FROM WHEN YOU STARTED TO GROOM SHIRO?

RIGHT FROM THE START?

WHILE SCHEMING TO KILL ME?

ACTING LIKE A POWERLESS, PITIABLE YOUNG BOY,

DID YOU GET CLOSE TO ME JUST FOR THIS TRAP?

I DIDN'T HATE YOU, TROUPE LEADER.

IT'S BECAUSE EVERYONE TREATED ME AS A TOY, THAT I AM WHO I AM TODAY.

AND I DID LIKE YOUR STORY OF FALLING IN LOVE AT FIRST SIGHT WITH A FOREIGN WOMAN.

AND WHAT I AM DOING RIGHT NOW IS JUST A COINCIDENCE.

On packet: Amulet

SHAAAA

SO, PLEASE BE TO-GETHER WITH A WOMAN YOU LIKE IN YOUR NEXT LIFE.

SFX: SPLURT

SHUDDER

JOLT

SFX: BANG BANG BANG

TO PRO-VE THAT THIS WAS SELF-DEFENCE.

AS MY WITNESS.

I NEED TO LEAVE ONE PER-SON ALIVE,

!!

HEY, YOU OVER THERE.

.....

SIGH

WAIT, THE SITUATION IS DIFF-ERENT!

OKAY, START THE ATTACK!!

ANRI CAME OUT!

OI,

CHATTER

HEY, EVERYONE LISTEN CAREFULLY!!

HE'S CARRYING THE TR-OUPE LEADER!

THAT'S WHY I KILLED THE TROUPE LEADER IN SELF-DEFENCE!!

THERE IS A WITNESS WHO KNOWS THAT

JUST NOW, I WAS ALMOST KILLED DUE TO THE TROUPE LEADER'S RIDICULOUS NOTIONS!!

THEREFORE,

OUR TROUPE IS NOW LEADERLESS.

CHATTER

CHATTER

I KILLED THE OTHER PARTY WITH THE INTENT TO DEFEND MYSELF.

FROM TODAY ONWARDS, I AM THE LEADER OF THE SOUTHERN TROUPE!!

I WILL TAKE HIS POSITION!!

CHEER

THAT'S RIGHT, BECAUSE YOU'RE THE STRONGEST IN THE SOUTHERN TROUPE!!

I HAVE ALWAYS BELIEVED THAT YOU SHOULD BE THE TROUPE LEADER!!

THIS IS GREAT, ANRI-SAN!!

GOOD BYE~~ EVERYONE!! WE WILL MEET AGAIN AT THE OFFICIAL CEREMONY FOR MY PROMOTION TO TROUPE LEADER~~!!

THIS IS BAD. THE CHARGES FOR HARMING A TROUPE LEADER IS SEVERE.

WHAT?! ANRI IS THE SOUTHERN TROUPE LEADER?!

SHOULD WE RETREAT FOR NOW?!

wobble

But if I were to collapse now,

I would surely get assaulted by the northern troupe soldiers.

Drinking just a few mouthfuls of the juice really doesn't sustain someone for long.

DIZZY

This is bad.. I've moved around too much...

wobble

Over there. Just a little more...

I need to last until I get into the troupe leader's room!!

SHUT

Ah, I've arrived.

THUD

wobble

RATTLE

STAR

!!

This is great!! I'll be able to get closer to those guys!!

I KNEW THAT THIS WOULD HAPPEN.

I'VE WAITED FOR A LONG TIME, ANRI.

SHI-SHINO-NOME...

DIE.

DID YOU HONESTLY THINK THAT I WOULD FALL FOR YOUR TRAP?

Quality Checker (t.co/fpnby

THAT'S WHY I WAITED FOR YOU HERE.

I KNEW YOU'D OUTWIT US AND HAVE A PLAN UP YOUR SLEEVE.

SHI. NONO-ME...

# The Thirteenth Story

## THE YOUNG MAN'S TRAP

DON'T TELL ME THEY WERE JUST PRETENDING TO FOLLOW MY PLAN?

THE SOLDIERS OUT-SIDE..

yank

UGHI

PULL

!!

KICK

.. DO YOU SERIOUSLY THINK I'D TELL YOU?

TELL ME WHERE SHIRO IS

AHA-HAHA!

DO YOU REALLY NEED SHIRO THAT BADLY?

IT'S UNUSUAL FOR YOU TO GET SO WORKED UP LIKE THIS.

I ONLY LENT HIM TO YOU ONCE.

WAS HE THAT AMAZING?

BANG BANG BANG

GA-AH!!

CLINK

IDIOT.

GRAB

STAB

UGH!

I SUGGEST YOU TELL ME WHERE SHIRO IS THIS INSTANT.
IF YOU STAY SILENT ABOUT THIS,
AND WHO WOULD WITNESS MY KILLING YOU HERE?
burst
I... I'M A TROUPE LEADER NOW IF YOU KILLED ME HERE, OUR CHIEF WOULDN'T STAY SILENT ABOUT IT.
WHA-
WILL BE IN DANGER.
YOUR YOUNGER BROTHER
SFX: BLAST
!?
CREAK

jump
!?
A brat!?
fwhoosh
munch
!?
RED VEIL!?

fsssshh
AHA-HA-HA!!
fsssshhh
AHAHAHA! MY BODY IS HEAL-ING!
ANRI!!
YOU DID WEL.., SHINZO!!
...!!
GLARE
This is... a trap!

NOW, TETSU!
LIKE I'D LET YOU ESCAPE!!
JUMP
CHE!
WHOOSH
!!
WATER

CLICK

CLICK

AAAR-RRGH!!

!!

TETSU.

WOBBLE...

DASH
I FIND IT AMUSING... SHINZO.
IDI...!! WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING! TETSU!!
pass by
DROP
IN THE PAST YOU WERE THE ONE WHO TREATED ANRI LIKE A DOG THE MOST...
HOP
BUT NOW YOU'RE HIS DOG?
DAMN! HE ESCAPED!
WHOOSH

HE THREW YOU AWAY-- A LONG TIME AGO!!

GET A GRIP ON REALITY MAN!!

turn

TETSU!! WHY DIDN'T YOU SHOOT HIM ACCORDING TO THE PLAN!!

YOU DECIDED TO WORK UNDER ANRI FOR THE SAKE OF KILLING SHINONOME, DIDN'T YOU!?

ARE YOU STILL THINKING OF HIM AS A SWORN BROTHER!?

GRIP

!!

BANG

SHUT UP!!

YEAH RIGHT! WORTH-LESS!!

DEFI-NITELY!

NEXT TIME, I'LL DEFI-NITELY KILL HIM!!

THUD

!?

THUD

!!

PIPE DOWN, BOTH OF YOU..

BOTH OF YOU ARE COMPLETE IDIOTS!

GEEZ... SERI-OUSLY!

I JUST FAILED AND YOU SAY I'M THE ONE MOST SUITABLE FOR THE JOB!?

WELL, I'M COUNTING ON YOU, TETSU.

YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE SUITABLE TO KILL SHINONOME.

ANR.... YOU BASTARD!!

SO-SORRY! ANR!

IF YOU DON'T GO NOW, YOUR ARM WON'T STICK BACK IN PLACE.

TETSU, PICK UP YOUR ARM QUICKLY AND GO TO MUTSUKUCHI'S PLACE!

AHA-HA!

OF COURSE! IS THERE ANYTHING MORE ROMANTIC THAN YOU KILLING HIM?

NONE!

WELL THIS WAS SOME RUCK-US WE CREATED

I BET HE DIDN'T WANT TO ATTRACT PEOPLE'S ATTEN-TION

BESIDES, KILLING A TROUPE LEADER RESULTS IN DEATH PENALTY

...STILL, I WAS SURPRISED THAT SHINONOME DECIDED TO RETREAT.

I CAN STICK IT BACK WITH MY OWN STRENGTH.

WHAT ABOUT YOURS?

YOUR SUGGESTION TO USE THE KID TO FEED YOU RED VEIL MOUTH TO MOUTH WAS A SMART MOVE, TOO

YEAH ANYWAY WE DID WELL PARTIALLY.

BESIDES, THAT KID...

THOUGH HE LOOKS FRAIL, I CAN SEE THAT HE'S CAPABLE OF DOING BRAVE THINGS.

HE'LL TRANSFORM SOMEDAY, SHINZO.

YEAH BECAUSE I REMEMBERED THERE WAS A KID AMONG THE SLAVES GIVEN TO US.

SHINONOME ALWAYS HESITATES FOR A MOMENT BEFORE KILLING A BOY

...WELL FOR NOW, THINGS ARE GOING SMOOTHLY ACCORDING TO MY PLAN.

IT'S A CRIME TO KILL A SWORN BROTHER WITHOUT A JUST CAUSE

SAYING THAT I'M POISONING MY YOUNGER SWORN BROTHER LITTLE BY LITTLE IS ABSURD ..!!

YEAH.

...SO?

THAT MAN *DID* POSSESS SOME RED VEIL AFTER ALL?

You're accusing me, sir!

!!!

A WO-MAN...

FOR IN-STANCE ..

THAT MAY BE TRUE. HOWEVER, HUMANS CAN RESORT TO DOING SUCH MAD SCHEMES WHEN THEY HAVE ENOUGH MOTIVES TO DO SO.

WHA...!?

SHE SAID THAT YOU'VE BEEN SECRETLY GOING BACK AND FORTH THE PLACE OF A HIGH CLASS PROSTITUTE.

A PROSTITUTE TOLD ME ABOUT IT WHEN I WAS SEARCHING FOR YOU.

HOW DO YOU MANAGE TO COLLECT SUCH A HUGE SUM OF MONEY?

A MAN LIKE YOU WHO USES HIS OWN MONEY FOR VOLUNTEER WORK...

HEY, YOU. YOU TOLD ME THAT YOU'RE FEELING BETTER, DIDN'T YOU?

NARCOTIC POISON PARALYZES ITS VICTIM.

IT GIVES THE VICTIM A FALSE FEELING OF RECOVERY.

BUT IN REALITY, YOUR BODY IS JUST GETTING WORSE.

IF YOU WANT, WE CAN CHECK YOUR BODY.

...

YOU NEED MONEY BUT YOU CAN'T STOP DOING VOLUNTEER WORK, CAN YOU?

WITHOUT THE "BENEVOLENT MAN" TITLE, PEOPLE WILL SUSPECT YOU FOR THE FAST PACE AT WHICH YOUR SWORN BROTHER IS DYING.

NII-SAN. HE'S LYING RIGHT...?

NII-SAN.

...

I'LL GIVE YOU THE RED VEIL SO PLEASE KEEP THIS MATTER A SECRET.

I ESPECIALLY DON'T WANT *HER* TO KNOW.

GUH!!

SHOVE

Nii...
Nii-
SA...!!

UGH!

UMMF!!

HE COULD'VE DIED HAPPY IF HE HADN'T FOUND OUT ABOUT THE POISON.

BECAUSE *YOU* POKED INTO SOMEONE ELSE'S BUSINESS.

OH... LOOK AT HIM. WHAT A POOR GUY. HE HAS TO DIE A PAINFUL DEATH LIKE THIS

GUH...

I STARTED THE VOLUNTEER WORK OUT OF GOOD WILL.

IT'S NOT LIKE I'M ORIGINALLY A BAD MAN.

UH...

SHE SAID THAT WHEN-EVER SHE SEES ME, SHE FEELS AT EASE.

SHE WAS FORCED TO TAKE PART IN THE NIGHTLIFE BUSINESS...

IF THEY'RE GOING TO DIE ANYWAY

I SHOULD MAKE THEIR DEATH COME FASTER.

IN FACT, ISN'T THAT WHAT YOU CALL *KINDNESS?*

IT WAS OUT OF GOOD WILL, TOO, WHEN I BEGAN MAKING ILL PEOPLE FROM THE LOWER CLASS MY SWORN BROTHERS.

BUT, THEY ALWAYS ENDED UP DYING AND SO I THOUGHT .

IF YOU HAVE THAT MUCH CONFIDENCE IN YOURSELF, GO AND TELL YOUR WOMAN THE TRUTH.

WITH THAT METHOD, YOU EARN MONEY TO BE "MR. NICE GUY" AND BUY A WOMAN STOP DENYING THAT YOU'RE THE ONE AT FAULT

AS LONG AS YOU GIVE ME THE RED VEIL, I COULDN'T CARE LESS ABOUT ANYTHING ELSE

BOW

*ONLY FROM HER..!!*

PL- PLEASE! KEEP THIS SECRET FROM HER!!

IF YOU DO SO, I'LL PRETEND THAT NOTHING HAPPENED.

GIVE ME YOUR RED VEIL THE NEXT TIME I ASK YOU TO.

juggle

AL-RIGHT.

IT'S THE REAL THING.

YOU'RE ALSO A *DEMON*.

HAHA... YOU'RE TRYING TO BENEFIT FROM A KILLER LIKE ME YOURSELF HUH...

Even among those people, I'm probably the worst villain.

That's right. Everyone here is twisted.

Most of them must have at least a screw loose in their head.

I will even be a demon.
But to hell with that! If it's for the sake of keeping Anri alive—
CHIEF...
THEY SAY THAT ANRI REVOLTED AGAINST THE ELITES...
THE SOUTHERN TROUPE LEADER HAS BEEN REPLACED.
swish
AN... RI...

The Organization

Northern Troops

HUH!? NII-SAMA.

ARE YOU TELLING ME THAT THE MISSION FAILED!?

NO. IT ALL HAPPENED WITHIN MY CONJECTURE THAT GUY IS A GOOD TACTICIAN

THIS TIME, I JUST CAME TO SEE WHAT HE WAS UP TO.

I CAN GUESS WHAT HE'S THINKING.

WHAT'S LEFT IS TO LOOK FOR A GUY WHO CAN INDIRECTLY SPY ON AND KILL ANRI.

THE KIND OF GUY THAT ANRI LIKES...

THE KIND THAT IS SO NAIVE TO THE POINT OF ***STUPIDITY*** WILL DO.

CLINK CLONK

GRIND

...LIKE THIS GUY OVER HERE, HE HAS THE PERFECT BIG BODY FOR A *SLAVE!*

CLUNK

TEE-HEE HEE...

CLONK

WE'VE GOT SOME BIG FISHES THIS TIME! THE ORGANIZATION WILL SURELY REWARD US ONCE WE'RE BACK!

I have to.. report Shiro's whereabouts to the Northern Troupe leader.. Immediately!!

CLUNK

I SUDDENLY FELT ILL. SO I'M GLAD I COULD RIDE IN THIS CART WITH YOU.

YEAH, THAT'S RIGHT.

CLONK

YOU SAID YOU'RE AN ASSASSIN FROM THE NORTHERN TROUPE, RIGHT?

BESIDES, WE GOT TO MEET A COMRADE LIKE YOURSELF IN SUCH AN UNEXPECTED PLACE

SHIRO-KUN

CLUNK

CLUNK

Shiro... This will be the end of you!!

IF IT COMES TO THAT, I'LL RESCUE HIM RIGHT AWAY!

...IT WOULD BE BAD IF SOMETHING WERE TO HAPPEN TO HIM, WOULDN'T IT?

HE PROBABLY HAS THINGS TO TAKE CARE OF BUT...

IPPEI HASN'T BEEN COMING TO VISIT ME SINCE THE LAST TIME WE MET.

...I'M SURE YOU CAN SAVE OTACHI-DONO LIKE YOU DID RECENTLY.

smirk

'ES. IF IT'S YOU, OFFICER...

hug

...IN OTHER WORDS, THOUGH YOU DIDN'T LOOK LIKE IT, YOU WERE ALSO WORRIED ABOUT IPPEI AND FOLLOWED HIM, RIGHT? ...HAHAHA!

I THOUGHT IT WAS YOU WHO SAID "I'LL LEAVE IT TO IPPEI'S JUDGEMENT"?

D- DON'T TELL ME YOU SAW IT!?

DRK!

blush

WAIT A SEC.

HM?

LIKE *YOU ARE*, OFFICER.

UNFORTU-NATELY, I'M NOT THAT GOOD OF A PERSON

The one I was worried about and followed was not Otachi-dono,

chuckle

SHIRO-KUN!

I WONDER HOW?

HUH? THEN, HOW DID YOU KNOW ABOUT IT?

but you, Officer.

?!

Geez!

I'M NOT GOING TO LET YOU GO UNLESS YOU TELL ME!

I'LL NEVER TELL YOU.

DID SOMETHING HAPPEN, SHIRO-KUN?

YOU SUDDENLY CALLED US HERE TODAY...

※

From here onwards is an extra chapter

WHOA!

YANK

IF *TWO* OF YOUR FAVORITE BEINGS ARE COMBINED, WHAT WILL YOU DO!?

OF COURSE BUT WHAT ABOUT IT?

FUFUFU

OFFICER, YOU *LIKE* ARAGAMI-DONO DON'T YOU?

WHAT THE HELL IS THIS!!!

WHA-

SFX: CRASH/BUMP

WHAA!!

WHAT ARE YOU DO-ING!!!

Then...

SO, HOW IS IT OFFICER? ARE YOU NOW HEAD OVER HEELS FOR ARAGAMI-DONO?

Huh?

Meow Trans-form Set

FOR SOME REASON, SOMEONE LEFT THIS IN FRONT OF MY DOOR THIS MORNING.

OH, BOTH OF YOU ARE SO DISGUSTING. I KIND OF LIKE IT.

AND I'M STILL IN MY RIGHT MIND!!

DON'T BE STUPID! ALTHOUGH HE HAS A PAIR OF CAT EARS NOW...

SABU-ROTA IS STILL SABU-ROTA!!

Neko = cat

Staaaare

NOT YOU.. YOUR *BRAIN* IS...

TODAY, SOMEHOW, I FEEL LIKE MELTING...

I've made a grave mistake...

NEKO-ROTA... I MEAN, SABUROTA...

This..
is far more
grotesque
than
I thought...

Eeeek! He's melting!!

melt
melt

...

meeeelt

SURE! LEAVE IT TO ME. NEKOROTA!!

YOU JERK!!

WH-

JUMP

whisper

"HEY, KOJIRO!! I WANNA EAT SOME OHAGI AND SAKE-STEAMED MANJUU FROM TSUBAKI SHOP!!"

(in a falsetto voice)

SHIRO YOU BASTARD!! THAT'S WHAT YOU'VE BEEN AIMING FOR!?

munch
munch

AAAH~~ I'M SO HAPPY!!

THUD
THUD

A MOMENT, PLEASE.

Shiro drawn with my left hand

※
Kojiro is extremely weak against alcohol. (Please refer to the first volume)

!!

nom
nom

WHAT, KOJIRO... IS THAT A *SAKE*-STEAMED MANJUU THAT YOU'RE EATING?

HM?

HM?

IT SEEMS LIKE HE WON'T BE THAT BADLY AFFECTED UNLESS HE DRINKS ALCOHOL DIRECTLY.

Phew!

OH, LOOKS LIKE WE WON'T HAVE MORE THAN HIM BEING IN A DAZE TODAY...

dazed

SFX: DASH

WHAA!! You're gross!! Don't come here eeee e!!

SABU-ROTA CAA-AAT----!!

BA-BUMP

WOW!! A HUGE SABU-ROTA CAT!!

WHAAAAT!!? WHAT KIND OF ANIMAL IS *THAT*!?

(In his mind)

SFX: CRASH BUMP DONK

Hiiii!!!

KA!!!

WHOA!

PULL

YOU! TAKE RESPON-SIBILITY!!

...

Saburota's "Beast is near" radar warned him that...

Shit... This isn't even a joke anymore.

...!!

Is he Goku!?

HOWAAAAA

KOJIRO

That guy's true colors have been awakened.

CALM DOWN, KOJIRO!! HE'S NOT A CAT!!
Hiii!!
A CAT!!
A BIG CAAA-AAT!!!
SFX: DAAAASH!
He's not listening
↓
CAT...
nuzzle
EEK!
NO MATTER HOW BADLY YOU'RE STUCK ON HIM, HE'S NOT A REAL CAT!! PULL YOURSELF TOGETHER!!
rub rub
Gaahh...!!
hug
hug
OOOO

Aeaah!!

I'VE HAD ENOUGH!

IF YOU LIKE CATS SO MUCH...

THAT HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH THIS, RIGHT!? *HELP ME!!*

STOP IT, KOJIRO! WHAT YOU GUYS ARE DOING NOW CAN ONLY BE SHOWN IN PORN VIDEOS FOR *MANIACS*!! GOT IT!? **MANIACS**!!

RATTLE

*HOW ABOUT PUTTING THESE ON YOURSELF!?*

Mirror
↓

HE'S RIGHT. THINK OF IT AS A BAD DREAM AND FORGET ABOUT IT.

(I'll do the same, too.)

NO... IT'S ALRIGHT. DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT...

...SORRY... WHAT DID I DO JUST NOW? WHEN I CAME TO, I SAW A RATHER UNPLEASANT IMAGE...

He got sober in an instant

DROP

YEAH... IT'S PROBABLY LIKE THAT...

SOME-THING LIKE THAT...

'ES. IT'S LIKE YOU MASSAGE YOUR OWN SHOULDERS BUT IT DOESN'T FEEL GOOD AT ALL.

THINGS THAT WHEN YOU PUT THEM ON YOURSELF WON'T MAKE YOU HAPPY OR ANYTHING.

BUT .. HOW SHOULD I PUT IT... CAT EARS ARE...

EXACTLY.

I AGREE... I THINK EVEN SOCIETY VIEWS THEM SKEPTICALLY.

I DON'T GET WHAT'S SO GOOD ABOUT THEM.

CAT EARS ARE BORING.

I GOT THESE FROM WAKA-BAYASH SAN!

LOOK AT THIS!

Meow!

OH! BROTHER, THERE YOU ARE!

SLIDE

SFX: COUGH... BLOOD

ガリ

レオ

Look I'm gonna wear this costume the next time I strip~!

Hmm.

An Extra of the Extra Chapter

END

SFX: UWOOOOO

I LOVE CAT EARS !!!

(Only when they're on a girl)

By the way, the one who put the cat set in front of Shiro's house was also Wakabayashi.

All cuties should try this set

Quality Checker AimeAio

NO...

THIS ISN'T WHAT I INTENDED TO DO.

AFTER ALL, I WAS..

YOUR BIGGEST FAN.

WH...

WHY DID I..

EVER THINK OF REPLA-CING

YOU...?

# The Fourteenth Story

Looking back to a few months ago...

Upper flag: Passionate welcome

Lower flag: Flood of customers

YOU'RE NAKED *AGAIN*!! TIE YOUR *FUNDOSHI PROPERLY, AND WEAR *SOME* CLOTHES WHILE YOU'RE AT IT!!

THIS IS MY SHOP! IT'S MY FREEDOM TO WEAR WHATEVER I WANT!

*Fundoshi = loincloth

WHAT IF A CUSTOMER COMES IN—

FREEDOM, MY ASS! THIS IS STILL A SHOP!

# The Fourteenth Story

## THE TWO BENIKA

Part 1

..CAN I HAVE A CUP OF TEA?

thud

RATTLE

.....

WEL...
WEL-
COME~~!!

IT'S ME

SHIRO-SAN,
YOU NEVER
CHANGE.

STOP PLAYING
STUPID AND
GET DOWN
HERE.

PLEASE TAKE
A LOOK AT
THIS MENU
AS THERE ARE
MANY DIFFERENT
KINDS OF TEA!
AND ***REFRAIN*** FROM
LOOKING
ELSEWHERE!!
EXCEPT FOR
THIS MENU,
THERE IS
***NOTHING ELSE***
TO BE FOUND
IN THIS SHO~

mutter

SHIRO ..

YES I AM.

AH! ARE YOU THAT SINGER...

ORO-CHIYA BENIKA!?

BENIKA-NEESAN!

HUH?

SHE SAID SHE LIKED MY TEA.

I MET BENIKA-NEESAN A YEAR AGO

"Oro-chiya Benika" is...

I'LL BE IN TOWN FOR A WHILE, SO I'M COUNTING ON YOU AGAIN TO SEND ME SOME OF YOUR LOVELY TEA.

I SEE...

SINCE THEN, WHENEVER SHE HAS A CONCERT IN TOWN, I SEND TEA TO HER ONCE A DAY.

She's well known for her powerful voice.
She is also a composer and lyricist.
a singer whose popularity is skyrocketing after her debut three years ago.
Her dramatic and subtle lyrics are praised by many as a work of a genius.
THE POPULAR OROCHIYA BENIKA'S LOOK-ALIKE...
NOW, EVERYONE! PLEASE TAKE A LOOK!!
Because of that, her popularity is widespread.
SFX: Chattering

PLEASE WELCOME KOHEBIYA BENIKO-CHAN!!
春曲一朝値千金
WOW! HE'S RIGHT! SHE LOOKS EXACTLY LIKE HER!!
AND HER SINGING IS EVEN BETTER THAN THE REAL BENIKA!
YOU'RE RIGHT!

T/N: The kanji for Oroshi mean "big snake" while those for Kohebi mean "small snake"

THERE WERE ALSO PEOPLE WHO SAID, "COMPARED TO THE REAL SINGER,
SHE DID A BETTER JOB AT CONVEYING THE LYRICS. I WAS MOVED!"
BUSINESS WAS GREAT TODAY, TOO! RIGHT, BENIKO-CHAN?
WE'VE MANAGED TO GATHER A LOT OF MONEY~!
LOOK AT THIS!

THE EXCEL-LENCE OF HER SONGS THROUGH ME.

STILL... I'M GLAD THAT THERE ARE PEOPLE WHO CAN BETTER APPRECIATE

I'M JUST AN IMITATOR, THOUGH.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

AHA-HA.

THEY'VE PRAISED YOU BETTER THAN THE REAL ONE!

On the board: "Orochiya Benika Concert Gates are now opened"

TA-DA

大蛇屋紅火コンサート

No way! She has a concert here today!?

Now I want to watch her concert...

I wasn't quick enough to realize why..

I see... No wonder many people have been watching me perform lately...

OF COURSE! THEN, I'LL SEE YOU LATER.

BENIKO-CHAN, YOU MUST BE A BIG FAN OF HER.

Hm?

CLANG

CLANG

!?

THUD

THUD

Compared to this, the stage of my live performance is only a street...

What a huge theater...

As expected of a real singer! Her clothes look expensive!

And the food she just threw is the super high class and famous "Okura Sushi"!!

clack

She's the real Orochiya Benika-san!!

THE OWNER OF THAT SHOP IS ONLY GREEDY FOR MONEY. I HATE HIM.

YO-YOU CAN'T DO THAT, BENIKA-SAN! WE RECEIVED IT AS A GIFT!

passes

SHIRO-SAN, COME QUICKLY!

'ES.

...

clack

He's so...

COOL!!

Oh, I'm so jealous of her!

She gets to be near someone like him.

wear fabulous clothes, eat high quality food...

Is he...her boyfriend!? Or a staff member!?

BA-BUMP

BA-BUMP

YOUR SINGING MOVES THEM MORE THAN THE ORIGINAL!

The difference between the real thing and a fake is undeniably big.

No matter how much I resemble her...

Or how much better I am at singing...

sigh

And I felt happy deep in my heart...

I'm such an idiot...

HEY.

JOLT

Okura Sushi is not something I can obtain so easi

reach

The majority of these sushi... are not dirty are they?

DO YOU WANT TO EAT THEM?

WHAT? UMM... WAIT..

yank

COME WITH ME. I'LL LET YOU EAT AS MANY OF THOSE AS YOU WANT.

tap

tap

tap

It's the real her...!!!

I CAUGHT A GLIMPSE OF YOU JUST NOW.

YOU PIQUED MY INTEREST SO I SECRETLY CAME BACK HERE

AHYA-AAAAA!!

AND SING IN MY PLACE

CHANGE INTO THIS DRESS,

I HAVE A FAVOR TO ASK.

CREAK

HERE WE ARE. GET IN.

YES...!

SHUT

I COULD TELL THAT IT WAS YOU AT A GLANCE.

YOU'RE THE PERSON WHO DOES AN IMPRESSION OF ME, RIGHT?

I'VE SEEN YOU SINGING ON THE STREET BEFORE

...

WHAT!?

REPLA-CEMENT...

SING AS YOUR..

I CAN'T ..

UMM... YOU'RE RIGHT, BUT

An audience large enough to fill that entire...!?
Did she say... "audience"!?
What!? What is the meaning of this!?
HUH, BUT...
THERE IS A JAM PACKED AUDIENCE, ALL WAITING FOR YOU TO SING.
THIS IS SOMETHING THAT I DECIDED MYSELF. BESIDES,
ALRIGHT, BENIKA-SAN. WE'RE PULLING UP THE CURTAIN.
YOU JUST HAVE TO SING THEN GO HOME.
IGNORE THE STAFF IF THEY TALK TO YOU.
slide
slide
What do I do...
In the end, here I am on the stage.
SFX: CHEER

Amazing!
What's with the number of people..
I have to sing!
The music has started !
This feels incredible!
Such enthusiasm!

...glad that I'm alive!

I'm...

SO? TELL ME ABOUT IT.

GOOD WORK.

TELL ME ABOUT HOW *YOU* FELT ON THE STAGE.

I CAN SEE THAT MUCH. I WASN'T ASKING ABOUT THE SHOW.

NOBODY COULD TELL OUR DIFFER-ENCE!

I THINK IT WAS GENERALLY A SUCCESS!

pant pant

WHAT?

IS THAT SO? I'M GLAD TO HEAR THAT.

IT WAS... MY FIRST TIME SINGING IN FRONT OF SUCH A CROWD.

UMM... IT WAS A VERY MOVING EXPERIENCE!

I WANT YOU TO BE MY DOUBLE

YES?

FROM NOW ON, YOU'LL BE THE ONE DOING THE SINGING.

DO YOU LIKE IT? FROM TODAY, YOU'LL LIVE HERE TOO

WHAT AN AMAZING ROOM...

I WANT YOU TO BE "ME" IN EVERY ASPECT.

IS THIS REALLY ALRIGHT?

YES.

THAT'S WHY, TELL YOUR FAMILY AND COMPANY THAT YOU'LL BE OUTSIDE THE COUNTRY FOR A WHILE THROUGH LETTERS OR WHATEVER.

WHAT!?

BUT I DON'T REALLY CARE ABOUT SINGING.

YOU SEE, I LOVE CREATING MUSIC.

UM. WHY WOULD YOU NEED SOMEONE TO BE YOUR DOUBLE?

IT DOESN'T MATTER WHO SINGS MY SONGS.

I WANT TO GIVE BIRTH TO EVEN MORE SONGS THAT ARE NOW SLEEPING WITHIN ME

ALTHOUGH BECAUSE OF IT, SOME PEOPLE SAY THAT IT'S HARD TO CATCH YOUR LYRICS, BUT...

COMPARED TO OTHER SINGERS WHO ARE GOOD AT SINGING BUT LACKING IN CHARACTER, YOU ARE FAR MORE ATTRACTIVE!

YOUR SINGING IS SO POWER-FUL..

AND SOUL-FUL ...!!

YOU ARE A GREAT SINGER, BENIKA-SAN!

B-BUT

BUT WHEN I TOLD THE STAFF ABOUT IT, THEY WERE AGAINST IT. THAT'S WHY I SEARCHED FOR A DOUBLE.

AND THAT'S ALSO THE REASON WHY I BEGAN IMPERSO-NATING YOU!

OH, YES! THAT'S BECAUSE I'M A BIG FAN OF YOURS!!

NOT AT ALL. THOUGH... IT DOES SEEM THAT YOU ADMIRE ME QUITE A LOT

I GOT SO WORKED UP..

I'M SOR-RY!

gasp

FIVE YEARS AGO, I LEFT MY HOMETOWN IN HOPES OF BECOMING A SINGER.

AH, THAT'S RIGHT. MY REAL NAME IS KIMURA MATSUKO

..when he was alive.

BELIEVE IN YOURSELF AND I'M SURE YOU'LL SUCCEED!

MATSUKO, YOU'RE REALLY GOOD AT SINGING!

I've always loved singing. My father often told me...

And then I saw you on your debut stage, Benika-san..

Many told me, "You're a good singer, but your singing just doesn't impress us."

However, even after my debut, I continued to live in obscurity.

One day, when I was singing your song at a party..

From that moment my world was dyed in your color, Benika-san.

It was my first time seeing a singer

who exposed herself so much while singing so gallantly

You were brimming with emotions.

MATSUKO-CHAN, YOU LOOK JUST LIKE HER!

And that's how it began.

IF SHE CHANGES HER MAKEUP, DON'T YOU THINK THAT HER FACE WOULD LOOK SIMILAR TO BENIKA-SAN?

OH! YOU'RE RIGHT!

BAM

TREMBLE

AH... KEEP QUIET

TREMBLE

I CAN ALMOST... SEE IT...

UH... AH...

AND SO I START-ED...

HUH?

BENI-KA-SAN!?

blub

blub

ANYWAY .. I'LL BE COUNTING ON YOU FROM TOMORROW.

TALK TO THE STAFF HOWEVER YOU SEE FIT.

scribble scribble

She's writing a song... How should I put it... Benika-san is indeed...

different from most people.

scribble scribble

This is unbelievable.

WHAT!?

BECAUSE EVEN I DON'T REMEMBER THEM.

YOU DON'T HAVE TO REMEMBER THEM.

EHM... WHAT ABOUT THE NAMES OF THE STAFF?

But...

NAH, I DON'T MIND. YOU'RE ALWAYS LIKE THAT, ANYWAY.

I- I'M SORRY ...

YOU CAME TO THE REHEARSAL ON TIME TODAY.

This is rare of you

YES?

WHAT, YOU FORGOT MY NAME AGAIN?

I'm your manager!

It's happening for real

IT'S HONDA.

I'm only acting like I always do, but I'm getting praised for it...

YEAH, SHE PAYS 10 TIMES MORE ATTENTION TO WHAT WE SAY.

WHISPER

WHISPER

BENIKA-SAN IS SO EASY TO TALK TO TODAY!

I also knew it through my firsthand interaction with her

NO!!

GYAAA!!

It looks like Benika-san is a very unique person...

GASP

BENIKA-SAN!! THERE'S NOTHING LIKE THAT HERE!!

THERE'S A MONSTER!! NOOO!!

RATTLE

rustle

bleah

dribble

The symptoms calm down a bit when she's not writing a song but...

She's still out of it.

She experiences daily visionary and auditory hallucinations, although there's no sign of her being a drug-user

She's always like this whenever she creates a song.

scribble scribble

I'm amazed that she's made it this far living like that...

flap

A NEW SONG.

YES?

IT'S DONE.

She indeed is amazing!!

Amaz-ing!!

...

rustle

SFX: CHEERING

大宮聖江

On the board: "Orochiya Benika Concert — Seats are now opened"

BENIKA-SAN, YOU'RE THE BEST!!

THE NEW SONG IS SO AWE-SOME!!

The best!!

I'm probably a genius, too...

The song might have been created by Benika-san, but it was me who sang it...

THANKS EVERY-ONE!

YOU'RE REALLY A GENIUS!!

GOOD WORK, BENIKA-SAN! THAT WAS WONDER-FUL!

TODAY'S TEA IS A FLOWER TEA FROM THE CONTINENT.

delivering tea.

The handsome guy I saw at that time turned out to be in charge of...

OH MY, SHIRO-SAN!!

BENIKA-NEESAN

'ES.

IS THAT A FLOWER BUD?

HM?

Open

I'M GLAD THAT YOU LIKE IT.

AND IT SMELLS GOOD, TOO!!

SO PRETTY! THERE'S A FLOWER BLOOMING INSIDE THE TEA!

Bloom

WOW!!

SHIRO-KUN!

Besides...

I feel happy just from having him by my side.

Shiro-san is always kind and beautiful.

JEEZ! I CAN HANDLE CARRYING A PACKAGE BY MYSELF!

WHO KNOWS WHAT KIND OF A MESS YOU'D MAKE HAD YOU DONE IT BY YOURSELF.

Sometimes I get to see this friend of Shiro-san. He's also hand-some.

I'VE BROUGHT YOUR PACKAGE!

...

JUST?

blurg

N- NO! I'M JUST...

YOU SAID SO BUT YOUR GOAL IS ACTUALLY TO MEET BENIKA-NEESAN RIGHT?

...

smirk

YOU'RE MORE SUSPICIOUS NOW THAT YOU'RE THAT EMBAR-RASSED.

NO-THING...

I- IT'S...

Hmph!

He looks so delicious!
Oh my!
Sparkle
Sparkle
I GIVE UP. YOU'RE SUCH A YOUNG AND FEARLESS "UNRIPE FRUIT", OFFICER...
sigh...
WHO'D YOU CALL AN UN-RIPE FRUIT!?
BUT WHO WOULD'VE THOUGHT THAT YOU'RE ACTUALLY THIS SHY?
What a waste.
BUT IT'S YOU WHO'S REVEAL-ING YOUR THING!!
UGH!!
SFX: BONK
REVEAL THE BEAST IN YOU, OFFICER!!
REVEAL YOUR MAN-HOOD!!
YOU SHOULD REVEAL YOUR-SELF MORE!!
BAM
R 18+
YOU GUYS SURE ARE CLOSE.
WHAT I SAW SPILLING OVER WAS AN INDECENT OBJECT!!
MY MANLY SPIRIT JUST SPILLED OVER A LITTLE!!
PUNCH
HIT

In order to stay by Shiro-san's side forever.

I must not let anyone know that I'm a fake.

RUN

IT'S TWO TIMES BIGGER THAN THIS HALL!

WHAT!?

YOU DID IT! IT'S BEEN DECIDED THAT YOU'LL HAVE A CONCERT IN THE OCEAN HALL!!

BENIKA-SAN!

IT LOOKS LIKE HE TALKED TO BENIKA-SAN THAT DAY AND FELT LIKE INVITING HER TO SING.

THE OWNER OF THE OCEAN HALL ATTENDED HER RECENT CONCERT, RIGHT?

CHATTER

WHAT!! THE OCEAN HALL!? THAT'S GREAT!

CHATTER

YEAH.

OH, I CAN SEE WHY. IT'S BECAUSE BENIKA-SAN HAS BEEN FRIENDLIER THESE DAYS.

whisper

HUH?

I HEARD THAT HE'S REALLY TAKEN A LIKING TO YOU, BENIKA-SAN.

And then...

T-THANKS!!

blush

BENIKA-NEESAN, CONGRATU-LATIONS

Benika-san keeps on composing songs without any problems.
Starting with the Ocean Hall,
I continued to perform big concerts.
My career sky-rocketed.
And as always, her songs become incredibly popular
I wore clothes of the latest trend.
I received presents from rich men.
My lifestyle changed greatly
I ate delicious foods until I got tired of them.
In short, it is my talent that allowed me to enjoy these things. I don't feel inferior at all.
Those were all the things that I gained because Benika-san had expectations of my talent

My life was in good shape.

However...

As if her condition is inversely proportional to my happiness.

Benika-san's condition worsened...

As a result the shackles binding her mind were falling apart-- and it was plain to see.

After she got me as a double, she lived in an environment where she could compose songs to her heart's content

I decided to lock her in a room.

...almost got in the way of my lifestyle, the situation reached the point where

At that time, because her eccentricities...

Sometimes I would peek into the room by slowly opening the door...

I can bear it

GYAAAA!!

BAM

BAM

No matter how noisy she gets, as long as I don't meet her directly

Benika-san gets to compose music that she likes and I get to be happy.

There should be nothing wrong with this!!

But this is what you wanted, Benika-san

I know it's hard...

RUN

GYAAAA!!

RUN

And I would see her running from her hallucinations, like always.

If... Benika-san keeps on breaking at this rate...

gasp

and give her food...

I'll just lock her forever...

glance...

And then I can marry Shiro-san somewhere far away!

The next concert will be at "The Imperial Theater"!

The No. 1 stage in this country!

I bet it's going to be another hit!!

There has been a plan to sing a new song there.

I'M SURE YOU'LL BE A SINGER WHO WILL BRING HAPPINESS TO EVERY-BODY.

Just a little further and I'll be the country's No. 1 singer!!

BELIEVE IN YOURSELF AND I'M SURE YOU'LL SUCCEED!

MATSUKO, YOU'RE REALLY GOOD AT SINGING!

Father...!! Watch over me from heaven!!

Y-
YES!!

HEY, OPEN THE DOOR FOR A BIT.

BAM BAM

I have to put in [redacted] effort so that no one knows that I'm just a fake.

I'll succeed!! But for that sake...

slide

BENI-KA-SAN!!

WHAT IS IT?

click

UNLOCK

Is the new song for the Imperial Theater finished!?

LET'S PUT AN END TO ALL OF THIS.

YOU MAY LEAVE NOW.

WHAT?

.....

NO. I'M SERIOUS.

MY HEAD IS VERY CLEAR RIGHT NOW.

WHA- YOU MUST BE KIDDING, RIGHT?

YOU'RE SIMPLY SAYING THIS ON A WHIM LIKE ALWAYS...

I'VE SPAT OUT EVERY SONG POSSIBLE.

I HAVE NO INTENTION OF RELEASING ANY MORE SONGS. I WANT TO QUIT.

WE'RE... VERY SUCCESSFUL RIGHT NOW!

DO YOU EVEN REAL ZE THAT THE NEXT CONCERT WILL BE AT THE IMPERIAL THEATER!?

PL- PLEASE STOP DOING SOMETHING SO SELFISH LIKE THIS!

SNAP

Exactly what... is this bitch saying?!

I WANT TO QUIT.

SO WHAT? I DON'T CARE ABOUT WHERE YOU SING OR HOW MUCH THE SONGS SE...

Quality Checker: AimeAio

# The Fourteenth Story

## THE TWO BENIKA
Part 2

IT DOESN'T MATTER WHERE YOU SING OR HOW MUCH THE SONGS SELL,

I STILL WANT TO QUIT.

YOU...

YOU CAN'T DO THAT!!

THE SUCCESS YOU HAVE NOW ISN'T THE FRUIT OF YOUR OWN EFFORT!!

IF A WEIRDO LIKE YOU, WHOSE ONLY TALENT IS MUSIC--WERE TO LIVE BY YOURSELF...

IN THIS DAY AND AGE, IT'S IMPOSSIBLE TO BE THIS SUCCESSFUL JUST BY WRITING GOOD SONGS!!

IT'S ALL THANKS TO MY ABILITY TO IMITATE YOU!!

DO YOU THINK YOU WOULD'VE GOTTEN THIS FAR!?

DON'T KID WITH ME!

THAT KIND OF LIFE ISN'T MEANINGFUL AT ALL!!

ARE YOU TELLING ME TO RETURN TO THE MISERABLE LIFE OF BEING AN IMPERSONATOR!?

WHY ARE YOU SO PERSISTENT...

YOU CAN LIVE YOUR LIFE HOWEVER YOU LIKE.

THAT WAY, I CAN MAKE MANY PEOPLE HAPPY!!

A LIFE OF A CELEBRITY, OF COURSE!!

MEANINGFUL?

THEN TO YOU, WHAT KIND OF LIFE IS...

twitch

THE CURRENT YOU CANNOT BE A TRUE "CELEBRITY".

...FORGET IT.

WON'T BE ABLE TO WRITE A TRUE "SONG".

IT'S "MEANING-LESS" TO LIVE AS AN ORDINARY PERSON,

YOU, WHO THINKS THAT

WH-

LIFE,

IN THE MIDST OF THEIR HARD WORK,

WHO ARE ALWAYS PASSI-ONATE ABOUT MUSIC AND SPREADING IT THROUGHOUT THE WORLD.

BECAUSE ORDINARY PEOPLE ARE THE ONES

AND MEMORIES, MUSIC LIVES.

...!!

THEY ARE THE ONES WHO HELP US SURVIVE.

IF YOU DON'T RESPECT AND CHERISH THEIR FEELINGS, YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO COMPOSE A GOOD SONG.

THERE'S NO SUCH THING AS A MEANING-LESS LIFE.

AS LONG AS PEOPLE LIVE WITH ALL THEIR MIGHT, THERE'S NO SUPERIOR OR INFERIOR KIND OF LIFE.

HUMANS ARE ALWAYS TRYING THEIR BEST TO LIVE.

BUT I'VE ALSO WORKED HARD..

A MONKEY THAT IMI-TATES...

TO YOU, I'M PROBABLY JUST LIKE A MONKEY THAT TRIES TO IMI-TATE YOU,

HOWEVER, I'VE ALSO PLAYED A PART IN YOUR SUCCESS.

...OF COURSE, YOU CAN SAY SUCH PRETTY WORDS BECAUSE YOU'RE SUCCESSFUL.

LIVING LIFE AS A MONKEY THAT IMITATES OTHERS IS THE BEST YOU CAN DO.

YOU'RE A PITIABLE PERSON.

FUFU

YOU'RE RIGHT.

MON-KEY, HUH...

I SEE.

giggle

AN ORDINARY SINGER LIKE ME MUST LOOK LIKE AN IDIOT.

tremble

tremble

YES...THAT'S RIGHT, HUH? IN THE EYES OF THE GREAT GENIUS, BENIKA-SAMA...

snap

SNAP

!!

IF I DON'T LEECH ONTO YOU, I WON'T BE ABLE TO SURVIVE!!

THUD

IMPO-SSIBLE.

YOU DON'T "MAKE" A SONG-- YOU "GIVE BIRTH" TO IT.

SILENCE!! MAKE A NEW SONG! MAKE ONE NOW!!

WHAT ARE YOU DOING! OPEN THE DOOR!!

SLAM

!!

I absolutely won't give up!! My current world and happiness...

I will never let go of them!

tears up

UGH...

---No! I hate this!!

YOU HAVE TO MAKE IT EVEN IF YOU DON'T WANT TO!! WITHOUT MUSIC, YOU'RE JUST A WEIRDO!!

WORK!!

Benika isn't writing any songs.

And her hallucinations continue.

The concert in The Imperial Theater is approaching.

The staffs are constantly pestering me about the progress of the new song.

After that, my life turned into hell

I might become the real Benika.

But, this could be my chance... If I could create a song...

---I couldn't bear it anymore. So I began composing a song myself

THE SONG IS ALMOST FINISHED ..!
BUT THE LAST PART IS THE MOST ESSENTIAL..
I MUST CONCENTRATE ..
AAGH!
A few days later
FUFU.. I DID IT!
SHUT UP!!
...
WAAA
AAAGH!
grrr...
THUD
GUH!
THE LEAST YOU CAN DO FOR ME IS KEEP YOUR MOUTH SHUT, YOU STUPID WOMAN!!

These few months, I've been getting...

shiver

shiver

...this kind of uncomfortable feeling...!!

What's with this throbbing...

THUMP

THUMP

This feeling of discomfort?

rattle

SLAM

FOR HEAVEN'S SAKE!

YOU'VE RUINED MY CONCENTRATION!

chirp chirp chirp

IT'S DONE!!

---I won't be defeated!!

I will succeed

and make my dream come true!!

...THIS IS NO GOOD.

WITH THIS, THE CONCERT AT THE IMPERIAL THEATER WILL TURN OUT ALRIGHT.

THIS SONG WILL SURELY BE A BIG HIT...!!

GREAT!! EVEN I CAN DO IT IF I PUT IN SOME EFFORT!!

WHY...!!

EH?!

THIS IS THE OPINION OF ALL THE STAFFS.

BENIKA-SAN, THE NEW SONG CAN'T BE PUBLISHED.

AND THE LYRICS LEAVE THE LISTENERS WITHOUT ANY IMPRE-SSION.

THE MELODY IS COMPLETELY DIFFERENT FROM BEFORE.

gulp

HOW SHOULD I SAY IT, IT'S LIKE *A FAKE* WRITTEN BY YOUR FAN.

THIS SONG HAS A HUGE DIFFERENCE COMPARED TO YOUR PAST SONGS.

VROOM

E705

I've come this far, so why did I have to listen to those words again?!

any impression on our hearts.

You're good at singing, but you don't leave

員査審

On paper: Judge

If I fail...

I won't be able to see Shiro-san anymore...!!

SLAM

At this rate, the concert at the Imperial Theater might be a fadure...!!

...

tremble

tremble

PLEASE MAKE A NEW SONG...!!

...I BEG OF YOU.

I SINCERELY APOLO-GIZE FOR THAT. I'VE SAID... MANY CRUEL WORDS...

FOR-GIVE ME.

BUT MY... MY MIND IS NOW A MESS...

I'M BEGGING YOU, HELP ME...!!

I... I'LL DO ANY-THING...

I'M BEG-GING YOU...

PLEA-SE!

?!!

rattle

BE.. BENIKA-SAN...?

BENIKA-SAN?!!

KICK

KEEP YOUR MOUTH SHUT, STUPID WO-MAN!!

Don't tell me, it's a wound from that time...!!

JASP

She's bleed-ing..?!

What... This can't be...

Although I've heard of people that hit a vital body part when they fell...

She's... cold.

touch

She hit her head when she fell...?!

IT SEEMS LIKE YOU ADMIRE ME QUITE A LOT

BEN-KA-SAN'S SONGS ARE REALLY GOOD!

I...

OH, YES.

Is it really okay for something like this to happen?

What have I done...

THAT'S BECAUSE I'M YOUR BIGGEST FAN!

I'M SORRY FOR SPEAKING ABOUT THIS JUST BEFORE THE CONCERT.

EVERYONE... TODAY THERE'S SOMETHING I WISH TO TELL YOU ALL.

BUT A MIMICRY SINGER, KOHEBIYA BENIKO.

TRUTH IS, I'M *NOT* OROCHIYA BENIKA.

AND ASKED ME TO BE HER DOUBLE.

A FEW MONTHS AGO, BENIKA-SAN CAME

IS THIS A NEW WAY TO PER-FORM...?!

WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU, BENIKA-SAN...

YOU ARE A FAKE?!

WHAT?!

WHAT KIND OF JOKE IS THAT!

I DIDN'T WANT TO LET GO OF ANY OF THAT.

I BEGAN IMITATING BENIKA-SAN COMPLETELY.

I WAS SHOWERED WITH AFFECTION THAT BELONGS TO HER, I WAS SPOILED AND LIVED IN A WORLD WHERE I COULD BE NEAR THE MAN I LIKE...

BUT BEFORE I KNEW IT..

AT FIRST, I WAS JUST PURELY HAPPY THAT I WAS ABLE TO HELP HER.

I..

THOUGH I DIDN'T HAVE THE INTENTION

lift

SO WHEN BENIKA-SAN SAID THAT SHE WANTS TO END THIS CONNECTION WITH ME...

pass

THIS IS BAD!

WHOA!

WHAT?!

WHAT IS SHE DOING!

unsheath

MURDERED HER!!

chatter

?!

dash

hook

NOT QUALIFIED TO LIVE ANYMORE!

SOME-ONE LIKE ME IS...

# STAGE 5

!!!

WHAT?!

LIFT

ALRIGHT, EVERYONE! WE SHALL WATCH THE CONTINUATION TO BENIKA-SAN'S MINI DRAMA NEXT TIME!!

PON

SHI... SHIRO-SAN!

THIS KIND OF INJURY IS NOTHING.

SHI.. SHI-RO-SAN

YOUR HAND IS..!!

step

step

I SEE . SO IT'S A DRA-MA!

SHE SURPRI-SED ME THERE!

rustle

EH .

THIS IS A NOTE LEFT BEHIND IN BENIKA-NEESAN'S ROOM.

THAT ASIDE, PLEASE TAKE A LOOK AT THIS.

But why must she look down on herself? It's a pity "

"Matsuko has a wonderful talent She can mimic a person's voice and pitch and sing even better than the person she imitates.

YOU' RE A PITIABLE PERSON

BENIKA-SAN.

She didn't say it to make a fool out of me...!?

Benika-san has really acknowledged me...

THERE IS NO SUPERIOR OR INFERIOR KIND OF WIFE

BENIKA-SAN WAS REALLY IMPRESSED BY YOUR TALENT.

It is as Benika-san said. The person that looks down on me the most is...

myself.

SUCH LIFE ISN'T MEANING-FUL!

Yet I...

I'M PRO-BABLY JUST LIKE A MON-KEY

BE A SINGER WHO WILL MAKE EVERYONE HAPPY

BELIEVE IN YOURSELF AND I'M SURE YOU'LL SUCCEED!

Ahh...

But I denied everything.

I'd tried my very best in the past

The uncomfortable feeling I've been suffering from is because of this.

The "success" I have now and the "success" father once said are different.

...SHIRO-SAN, I'VE FINALLY SEEN THE TRUTH.

I'm sorry, father...!!

shiver

?!

shiver

BENIKA-SAN...!!

...MA-TSUKO-SAN.

THOUGH IT'S ALL TOO LATE

TAKE A LOOK OVER THERE.

?

SHE... SHE'S ALIVE?!

LET ME EXPLAIN THIS TO YOU.

I GOT TO KNOW BENIKA-NEESAN ONE YEAR AGO.

WHEN WE FIRST MET, SHE TOLD ME THAT SHE WISHED TO HAVE A DOUBLE.

THAT'S WHY I COULD IMMEDIATELY TELL THAT YOU WERE WORKING AS A REPLACEMENT FOR BENIKA-NEESAN.

BUT FOR NEE-SAN'S SAKE, I PRETENDED NOT TO KNOW.

I KNEW THAT SOMETHING HAD HAPPENED

AFTER SEEING YOU ACTED STRANGELY THE DAY BEFORE.

So this morning, I went to take a look at Nee-san's house.

And saw Nee-san lying on the floor

...OH, SHIRO-SAN.

I THINK I WAS OUT COLD FOR A WHILE.

According to Benika-neesan...

EH?!

When Matsuko-san kicked her, she didn't get any serious injury

But the next day...

and hit her head.

When Benika-neesan was making a scene, she slipped

She had anemia due to blood loss and lost her consciousness.

When you found her in that state, you misunderstood the situation and thought that you had murdered her

DID YOU CONFIRM THAT SHE'S DEAD?

HER FACE MUST'VE TURNED PALE DUE TO HER ANEMIA.

BUT BENIKA-SAN'S FACE WAS SO COLD...

THE ONE WHO TROUBLED BENIKA-SAN WAS ME...

teary

BUT... I WAS SO VIOLENT TOWARD HER.

I RAN OUT ALMOST IMME-DIATELY.

NO... I WAS REALLY FRIGHTENED AT THAT TIME...

FUFU!

FU

jolt

yise

AHH---

THAT WAS FUN!!

THEY WERE ALL SO EXCITING!

THESE ARE ALL INVALUABLE EXPERIENCES.

COMPOSING SONGS AT MY OWN PACE, MAKING A RUCKUS WHENEVER I FELT LIKE IT, BEING FORBIDDEN TO LEAVE MY ROOM...

IT'S ALL THANKS TO YOU, MATSUKO-SAN

I FEEL LIKE COMPOSING SONGS AGAIN.

ALTHOUGH I DID THINK OF ■UITTING,

THESE PAST FEW MONTHS, IT LOOKS LIKE NEE-SAN'S BEEN HAVING FUN FROM THE BOTTOM OF HER HEART.

step step

LET'S MEET AGAIN SOMEDAY!

BE... BENIKA-SAN!!

WH-AT.. !?

SHE MADE A SCENE THAT DAY BECAUSE SHE WAS TOO EXCITED AS WELL.

WHO HAD BEEN PLAYED RIGHT IN THE HANDS OF NEE-SAN.

IT WAS ACTLALLY YOU, MATSU-KO-SAN.

EH?!

J

SHE CAN ESCAPE WHENEVER SHE WANTS.

AND THERE'S A SECRET DOOR IN BENIKA-NEESAN'S ROOM.

SHIRO-SAN.

THANK YOU FOR SAVING ME. .

NOW I'M REAPING WHAT I SOW.

STIL.... I WAS THE ONE WHO MADE THINGS WORSE.

BENIKA-SAN HAS ACKNOW-LEDGED MY TALENT AND THAT MAKES ME REALLY HAPPY ..

STILL, MORE THAN THAT I...

FROM THIS INCIDENT . I'VE LEARNED ABOUT HOW DESPICABLE AND GREEDY I AM.

I'VE UNDER-STOOD VERY WE...

BUT..

I'M SO HAPPY.. !!

EXTRA-ORDI-NARY SHE IS.

SHE'S ON A WHOLE DIFFERENT LEVEL.

I CAN'T EVEN BEGIN TO DESCRIBE HOW

SHE'S EXACTLY LIKE HOW I IMAGINED HER TO BE WHEN I FIRST LISTENED TO HER SONG.

I'VE UNDERSTOOD CLEARLY JUST HOW GREAT SHE CAN BE.

BENIKA-SAN TOLD ME...

THAT EVERY HUMAN LIFE HAS MEANING.

I WANT TO DO MY BEST AS A SINGER THAT MIMICS BENIKA-SAN.

I... WISH TO START OVER.

THIS TIME WITH MORE CONFIDENCE IN MYSELF...

I... ACTU-ALLY...
THANK YOU, SHIRO-SAN...
I'M SURE YOU CAN RESTART YOUR LIFE
SHIRO-SAN... ACTUALLY I HAVE ALWAYS LIK-
turn
!!
YOU SHOULDN'T BE ATTRACTED TO A GUY LIKE ME.
FARE-WELL.
tuoosh

Yes, "just a..." has no continuation.

Will my life be for anyone's sake?

Is there a meaning to my existence?

What about me...

sigh...

HM?

I'M ON PATROL AND I HAPPENED TO SEE YOU PASSING BY.

OFFI-CER!!

SHIRO-KUN.

PAT

YIKES!

squeeeeze

IT'S NOTHING...

WHAT'S WITH THE LONG FACE? DID SOMETHING HAPPEN?

IT HOOU URTS!

throb throb

throb throb

clench

GRIP

pinch

squeeze

pinch

.....

WHETHER IT'S...

I'll TELL YOU THE CONTINUATION TO THE "JUST" THAT I SAID LAST TIME.

WHETHER IT'S IN YOUR WORLD WHICH I DON'T KNOW OF,

INSIDE OR OUTSIDE YOUR SHOP

I *JUST* WISH TO STAY BY YOUR SIDE

Ah, crap...

DON'T YOU DARE LAUGH JUST BECAUSE IT SOUNDS CHILDISH!

blush

WELL, LONG STORY SHORT, I JUST WANT TO BE INCLUDED IN YOUR CIRCLE OF FRIENDS. THAT'S ALL.

the verge of tears.

NUFFING. (NOTHING)

WHAT'S WITH THAT FACE!

Just now, I...

IT'S NOTHING.

Hmph.

HEY! WHY AREN'T YOU LOOKING AT ME?!

...it would be nice if that someone is this person.

If the time should come when my life has to be for someone's sake...

END OF VOLUME 4

Quality Checker mona

FROM HERE ON IS THE EXTRA CHAPTER.



One day, when Shiro donned that fundoshi on a whim, the curse shrank his body.

Sick of being continuously made light of by Shiro, Shiro's fundoshi strayed from the right path and turned into a cursed fundoshi.

SHIRO-KUN~! I'VE BROUGHT YOUR MEAL!

The caring Kojiro decided to look after Shiro.

Doll clothes

'ES.

A dining table from Aguri's doll playing set

T/N: Aguri, Kojiro's younger sister

CHOMP

WOW!

flaked fish

HERE, YOUR RICE GRAIN SUSHI

lick lick

AH- HEY!

'ESH.

NOM NOM

IS IT TASTY?

HUH!?

B- BUT...!

WOULD YOU LIKE TO TAKE A BATH WITH ME?

SHIRO- SAMA!

HYA- HAHA!

lick lick

I- IT TICK- LES!

I'M LOOKING FORWARD TO IT!!

'ES.

GLINT

stroke stroke

SHARP

.....

YOU'RE CUTE LIKE A DOLL, SO CAN WE PLEASE, SHIRO- SAMA!!

BR-BROTHER!! SHIRO-SAMA IS ALMOST DROWNED!!

EEEK!

WHAT'S WITH THAT "I'M READY" KIND OF FACE!?

GAH BOH HAGAII

Shiro's bathtub is this BOWL

*MIND TELLING ME WHAT YOU'RE LOOKING FORWARD TO S-RO!?*

YOUR BATHTUB IS *HERE*!

T/N: S-ro, a play on Shiro's name with the "S" being an acronym for "Sadistic"

AS AN APOLOGY, LET ME WASH YOUR BACK.

NOOOO...!! OFFICER, YOU'RE TOO CRUEL!

COUGH COUGH

GASP

OH! YOU'RE RIGHT... I'M SORRY SHIRO-KUN...

I didn't realize...

I-I'M SOR-RY!

squeak

squeak

Fuwaaah

SLIDE

KO-CHAN! I HEARD SHIRO GOT SMALLER, IS THAT TRUE!?

ANRI-KUN!!

'ES...

drowsy

squeak

squeak

IS IT NOT PAINFUL? SHIRO-KUN.

HUH?

P-PUT ME DOWN!!

dandy

HOOO~ IT'S TRUE! ISN'T THAT KINDA PITIFUL, SHIRO~?

YOU SURE YOU CAN TALK BIG LIKE THAT, SHIRO?

slide

Ear pick

wiggle

wiggle

NOO-OO!!

I KNOW WHAT YOUR WEAKNESS IS.

H- HEY! ANRI-KUN!!

Ahaha This is so fun

HAHA.

AHAHA HAHA!

H- HELP...! OFFICER!

Sweep

flail flail

Sweep

N- NO!!

Sweep

I- IT TICK-LES!!

AHA HAHA HAHA.

Sweep

Sweep

Ahaha

snatch

GIVE HIM BACK!

Geez!

THUMP
THUMP

WHAT!! SAY SOME MORE! BUT *DIRTIER* IF YA EVEN CAN!!

WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU GETTING SO EX-CITED FOR!?

SHI-SHIRO-KUN! THAT WAS UNCALLED FOR!

Hic Hic

BEING BULLIED BY A SUPER *MASOCHIST*, A *BITCH*, AND A *PERVERT* LIKE NII-YA IS A *DIS-GRACE*!!

THAT WOULD TROUBLE YOU, OFFICER...

BUT...

SHIRO-KUN,

I'LL ALWAYS LOOK AFTER YOU, SO DON'T BE SAD.

Anri-kun, please don't

Shiro, don't worry I'll shrink for you too

SOB SOB

I DON'T WANNA STAY SMALL ANY-MORE!!

BESIDES, I *WILL* FIND A WAY TO GET YOU BACK TO NORMAL!!

NO PROBLEM, IT'S NO-THING TO WORRY ABOUT.

chirp chirp

The next day...

ZZZ

OFFI-CER!!

dreamy...

HUH... SHIRO-KUN...?

...HM.

...OFFI-CER!

I DON'T WANT TO BOTHER YOU MORE THAN I ALREADY HAVE.

THANK YOU FOR EVERY-THING!

chirp

SHIRO-KUN!!

SHIRO-KUN!!

TAKE CARE!

flap

SHOCK

chirp

chirp

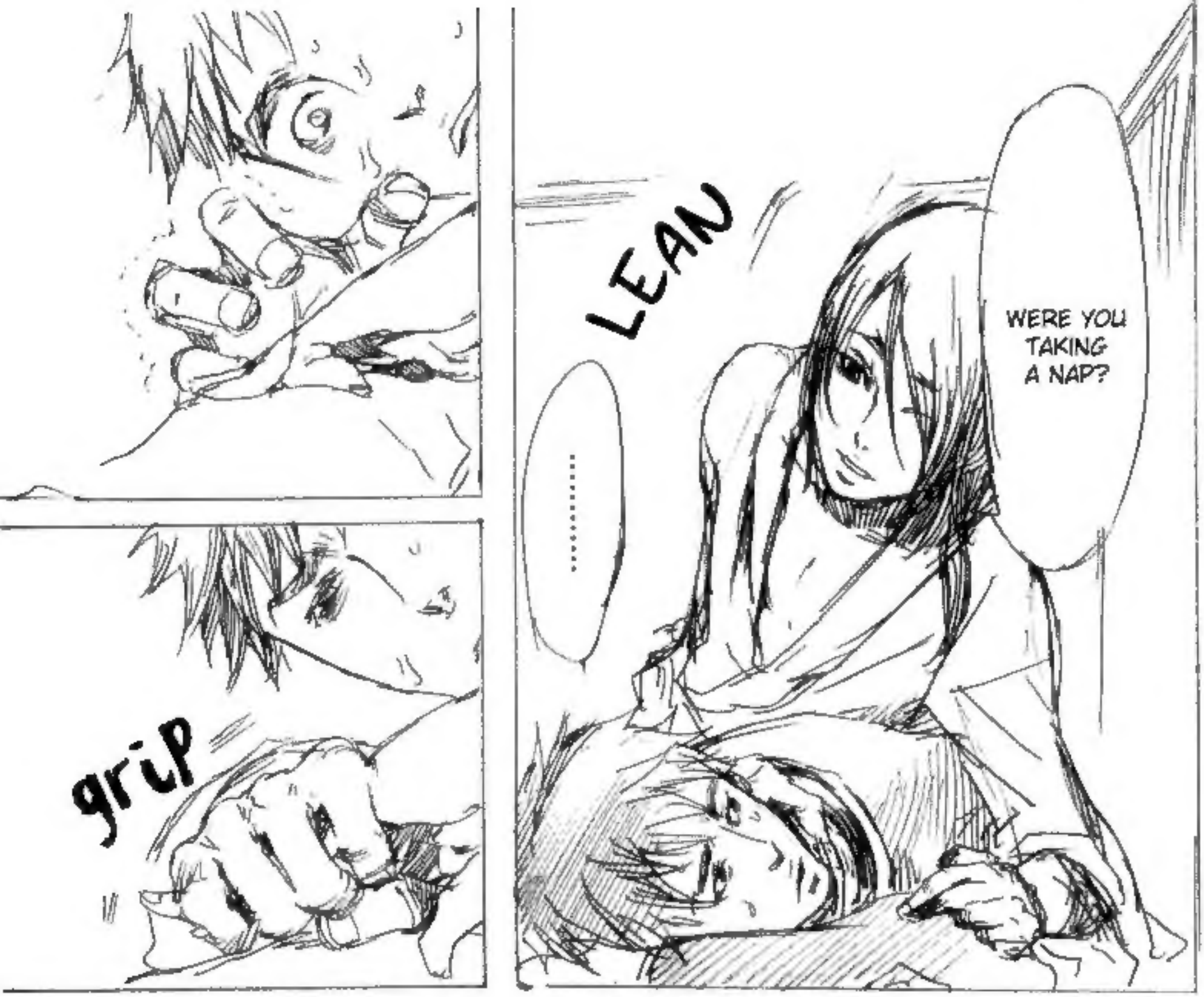
chirp

.....

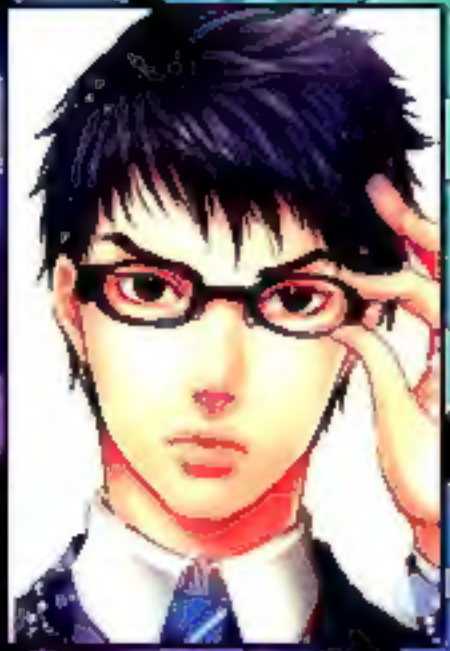
.....

OFFICER, IS SOMETHING WRONG?

I'VE BEEN CALLING YOU FOR A WHILE...



Thank you for reading the manga up until this chapter!
This extra chapter is inspired by a story of a friend who told me that
"I had a dream where Shiro became small!
He was buried under a fundoshi".
I owe you, friend! Thanks!



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L.O.V.E Scanlations

Raws & Translator- monn

Cleaner- Kame-chan

Typesetter- monn

Quality Checker- monn

Proofreader- Kiruee